

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GREEN BAY PACKERS

Packer Report

VOL. 23 24 DECEMBER 16, 1995

\$2.00

**Packers
fall to
Bucs in OT**

**Color
poster of
Sean Jones**

**Everett
and Saints
up next**

ON THE RISE

**Chris Jacke closing
in on new plateau**



LAMBEAU FIELD GREEN BAY U.S.A.

Packer Report

December 16, 1995

ON THE COVER

Chris Jacke is closing in on a new plateau for his career — 700 points. Jacke entered Sunday's game at Tampa Bay just 14 points shy of the mark. Only two other Packers have exceeded that level. For more, see page 12-13.

Photo by: Mark A. Wallenfang

In a 'zone' 6-7

Green Bay's offense and defense entered the game against Tampa Bay Sunday night red-hot in the "red zone."

Coach 8

Packers head coach Mike Holmgren responds to questions during his midweek press conference.

Welcome 15

The Green Bay Packers recently signed former Bears quarterback Jim McMahon. McMahon is not the first ex-Bear to suit up in the Green and Gold.

Color poster 16-17

Photographer Mark A. Wallenfang features Packers defensive end Sean Jones.

Pleasant problem 18-19

Charles Jordan's knee is getting better, meaning the Packers will be forced to choose either him or rookie Antonio Freeman to return kicks and punts.

Tough runner 26

Louisiana native Jim Taylor pounded away at the New York Giants, despite a cut tongue and elbow, to help the Packers win the 1962 NFL title.

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112 Market Street
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

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Playoff tickets available

Nearly 7,000 tickets for a possible Lambeau Field playoff game will be made available to 'Gold' package (formerly Milwaukee) season ticket holders beginning Dec. 26. Green Bay Packers Ticket Director Mark Wagner said on Dec. 8.

Ticket prices are \$45 for both sideline and end zone seats with an additional \$2 handling charge per ticket.

A total of 6,862 seats will be available to 'Gold' package ticket holders starting at 9 a.m. on Dec. 26, according to Wagner, with sales resuming at the same time on Dec. 27 unless already sold out. Close to 13,000 of the team's 'Green' package season ticket holders exercised their option to purchase playoff tickets in 1995, Wagner said.

"I expect that all of the remaining playoff tickets currently available will be purchased by our 'Gold' customers and do not anticipate the need for a general public sale like last year," Wagner said.

Orders, which may be placed only over the telephone, will be filled on a first-call basis through TicketStar (414) 494-3401 with a limit of four tickets per account. 'Gold' package season ticket holders will be required to verify information relative to their season ticket account to a TicketStar representative in order to make their purchase. Visa, MasterCard and Discover will be the only forms of payment accepted.

The ticket sale applies only to playoff game No. 1 on Dec. 30 or 31, or in the divisional playoff round (Jan. 6 or 7). If the NFC Championship game should be held at Lambeau Field, this process will be repeated for 'gold' package customers on Jan. 8.

Packers didn't make the plays

The Green Bay Packers have had a lot of success in beating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in the past, but I guess the Bucs showed that they have a decent team.

Tampa Bay, before a national TV audience, went out and beat the Packers 13-10 in overtime.

That's what makes the NFL great. On any given Sunday, any team can win in any game.

It's a shame that the Packers went into overtime and didn't have a chance to get the ball, but they had an opportunity to win the game in regulation. They just didn't make the plays. It all comes down to making those big plays.

The Packers didn't execute well Sunday night. I'm not taking anything away from Brett Favre. It probably was one of Favre's poorer games, but you can't blame one guy. The whole team has to play better together.

Overall, it was a pretty good defensive game. Both defenses played well but the Packers didn't execute as well as the Bucs did.

Hopefully a loss like this will wake the team up. You can't take anybody for granted. It proves you have to play every game and play four quarters. You have to execute and you can't look ahead. Favre said it was a "humbling experience" after the game but if you expect victory, you have to work together to get the job done.

Fortunately, the Packers still have control of their own destiny. With two games left, it's so important to take it one game at a time. They just have to execute and play good, sound football.

I thought the effort was there Sunday night. They weren't as sharp and crisp as last week when they beat the Cincinnati Bengals. They are playing good football.

It was another game we could have won as easily as we lost. They didn't come up with enough big plays like the Bucs.

The Bucs did apply a lot of pressure and take things away from the Packers. But you have to take your hat off to



Ray Nitschke
Featured columnist



Brett Favre had an off day.

the Bucs. They came to play. Their defense look much better and their quarterback Trent Dilfer made some great plays.

New Orleans and Pittsburgh are two teams talented enough to beat the Packers. The Packers can't afford to feel sorry for themselves and need to finish the season strong.

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Packer Report (USPS 998-200) (ISSN 1081-9851) is printed 28 times a year, including up to three times in January, monthly in March, April, May and July; weekly August through December, except one bye date, by Green Bay's America's Pack LLC, 112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2986.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS — \$32.95 per year (26 issues). First class mail an additional \$30 per year. Air mail an additional \$70 per year. Second class postage paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590, and additional offices.

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO — Packer Report, 112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2986.

GENERAL OFFICES — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-2986, (608) 837-5161. Fax: (608) 825-3053.

PLEASE SEND SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS TO — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, (608) 837-2200.

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"Packer Trivia"

You can win "Packer Legends in Facts," a new book by Eric Goska that retails for \$29.95 just by answering a Packer trivia question. Each winner will be mailed one copy of the book within three to four weeks from the time the question is printed. There will be a random drawing in case there is more than one correct answer. To be eligible to win, all answers must be postmarked no later than **one week** from the date on the cover of the Packer Report. The answer to each question will be published two issues after it is printed.

To enter, write your name, address, phone number and answer on a postcard and send to: Packer Report, "Trivia contest," 1317 Lombardi Access Road, Green Bay, WI 54304. Here's the question:

Who led the Packers' defense in tackles during Mike Holmgren's first season in Green Bay (1992)?

Answer to Nov. 25 question on page 11.

Bucs get last laugh

Packers' title, playoff bids set back in OT loss

By Todd Korth

TAMPA, Fla. — It was an all-around clunker of a game Sunday night for the Green Bay Packers.

The offense sputtered, the defense knocked and in the end, the Packers blew a golden opportunity to clinch a playoff spot, losing 13-10 to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Michael Husted's game-winning 47-yard field goal in overtime before a chilled crowd of 67,557 and a national cable audience at Tampa Stadium.

Green Bay played without all-pro defensive end Reggie White, who missed a game for the first time in his 11-year career (a stretch of 166 games) with a pulled hamstring in his left leg.

The defense also played without starting safety George Teague because of a toe injury and was without cornerback Craig Newsome, who suffered a blow to the head early in the second quarter and did not return.

On top of that, Favre had a subpar day, throwing for 285 yards and a touchdown with one interception. Plus, the reliable Chris Jacke missed two field goals, including a 45-yard attempt that could have won the game with five seconds remaining in regulation.

"Yeah, I'm very disappointed," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "Give Tampa Bay all the credit in the world. They played a fine football game. There was a lot at stake for both teams, but certainly a lot at stake for the Green Bay Packers. We, frankly, didn't play well enough to win the football game."

The Packers, who slipped to 9-5 but still a game ahead of Detroit and Minnesota in the Central Division, have two games remaining — this Saturday in the Superdome against the New Orleans Saints and Dec. 24 at home against the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"If we would have won tonight, even though we would have been in the playoffs, we still would say these next two are important," said Favre. "But we lost. Losing this game kind of puts us in position to see how good we really are. You can take it as a challenge and I think that's the way we're going to take it."

"No one is going to give us those remaining two games. They'll be kind of fun, but this is what football is all about."

The inconsistent Bucs (7-7), whom the Packers beat 35-13 on Nov. 26, won for just the second time in the last 11 games against Green Bay and snapped a six-game losing streak to the Packers.

Tampa Bay kept the Packers off-balance. Running back Errict Rhett, held to

Todd Korth



Packer beat

**Bucs 13
Packers 10 (OT)**

No game photos

Due to the lateness of the Packers-Bucs game Sunday night and an early Monday morning deadline, we were unable to include any game photos in this issue.

minus one yard by the Packers in the first meeting, gained 118 yards on 22 carries. Trent Dilfer completed 23 of 42 passes for 240 yards and threw two interceptions, but put the Bucs in a position to win the game in overtime after they won the coin toss.

Starting at their own 23, Dilfer threw for nine yards to Jackie Harris, Rhett ran for another eight yards up the middle and Dilfer hit Horace Copeland for 23 yards to Green Bay's 37. Tampa Bay pushed the ball to Green Bay's 29 in three plays and Husted booted it through the uprights. It was Husted's third game-winning kick of the season.

"They key tonight was being on the same page as Trent," said Copeland, who finished with a career-high eight catches for 122 yards. "All the credit goes to Trent. He's the one who audibled to the right plays. I see it as a team effort."

Meanwhile, the Packers had trouble executing on offense and never really got it going until the third and fourth quarters when they drove 73 yards and scored on Favre's eight-yard touchdown pass to Keith Jackson, Jackson's first as a Packer.

"They took away our deep stuff," said Favre. "They played a lot more man to man and played it pretty good. They batted some balls down in third down situations. Usually we get those."

"You've got to figure that every once in a while when we play those guys they're going to play pretty good. Tonight

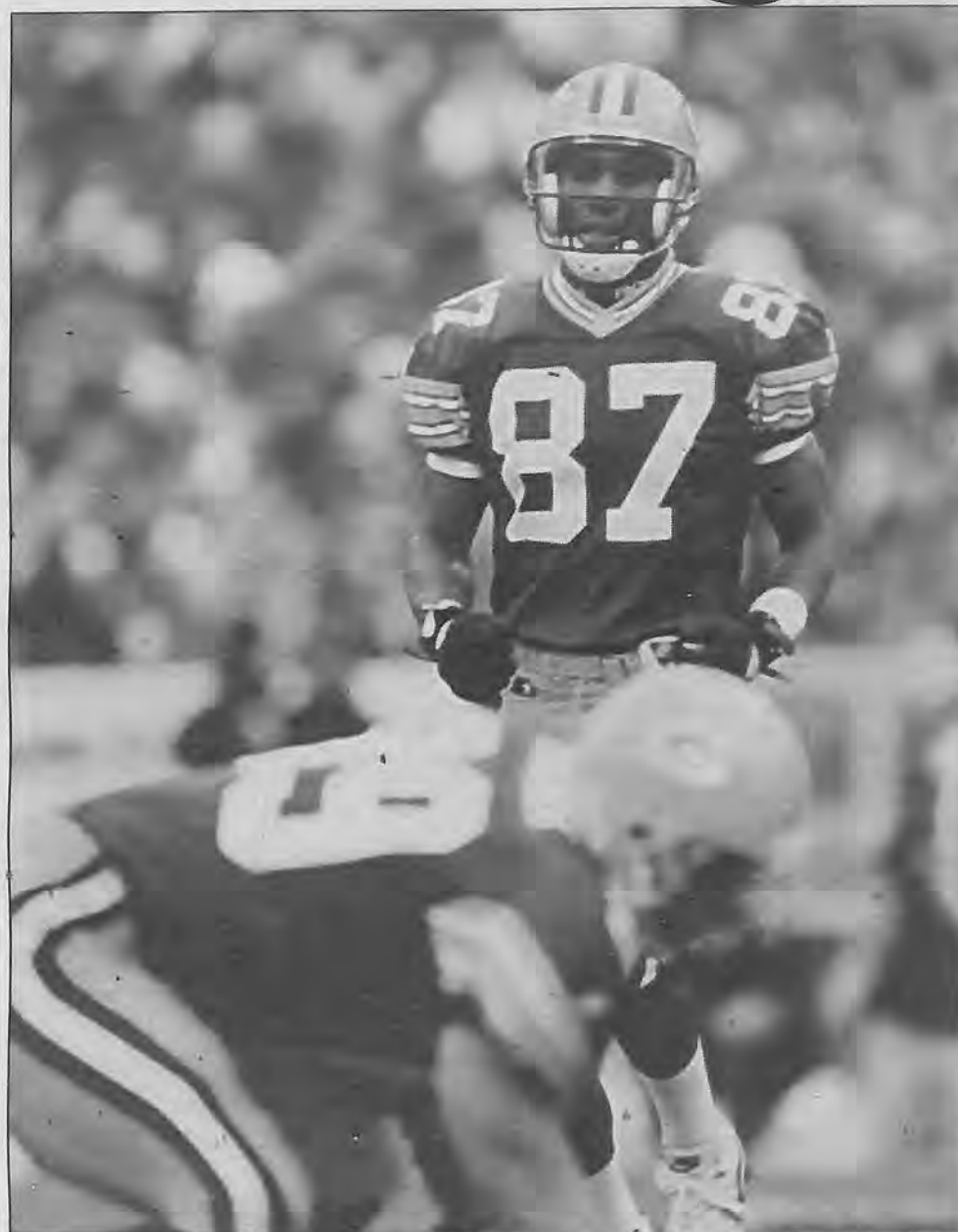


Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Robert Brooks had nine catches for 122 yards Sunday.

they did."

Sparked by Bobby Joe Edmonds 28 yard kickoff return, Tampa Bay started at their own 39 and moved to Green Bay's 20 before Husted kicked a 38-yarder to tie the game at 10 with 4:11 remaining in regulation.

Green Bay turned the ball over in three plays on their next possession but got it back with a minute left at their own 20.

Favre went to Robert Brooks, who finished with nine catches for 122 yards, three straight times as the Packers inched to the 27 and Green Bay dodged a bullet when cornerback Tony Stargell dropped an errant pass from Favre.

Jacke, who has won games for the Packers in Tampa Stadium in the past, was shaking his head after he pulled the potential game-winner to the left.

"I just didn't hit it very well," said Jacke. "I was just trying to kick it a little harder than was necessary. I was concerned with getting it there. I should know better by now."

Tampa Bay took a 7-3 lead on Jerry Ellison's 1-yard touchdown dive with 8:44

remaining in the third quarter. The score capped a 65-yard drive, highlighted by a 22-yard catch by Copeland to the Packers' 23 on a third and 19.

Jacke's 51-yard field goal, his third straight from 50 or more yards this season, put the Packers up 3-0 at halftime.

Favre completed 12 of 23 passes for 143 yards in the first half but was intercepted by Melvin Johnson in the end zone after the Packers took the opening kickoff and moved 68 yards to the Bucs' 12.

Jacke broke a string of nine straight field goals when he was wide to the right on a 45-yard attempt in the first quarter.

Tampa Bay took over on their own 35 and had a first and goal on Green Bay's 1 but Joe Kelly thwarted the drive by intercepting Dilfer's pass in the end zone.

The situation was similar to one in the Packers' Nov. 26 win over the Bucs when Kelly and the Packers defense stopped Tampa Bay in four downs from inside the 3. This time, instead of blitzing into the backfield to stop Rhett, Kelly held his ground and picked off the pass intended for Warren Sapp.



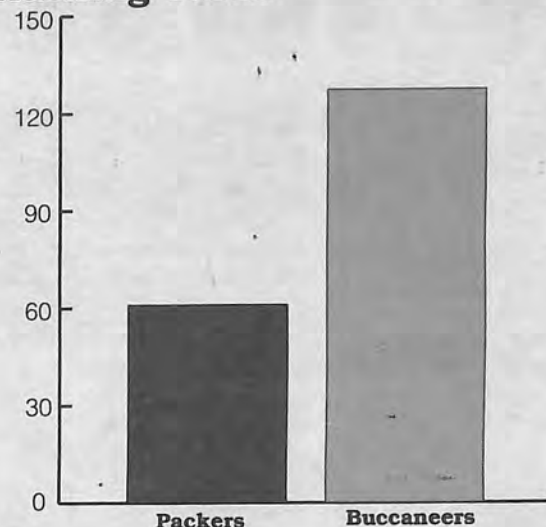
SCORING SUMMARY

Green Bay Packers	0	3	0	7	0	10
Tampa Bay Buccaneers	0	0	7	3	3	13
Packers, 2, 4:13, Jacke 51-yard field goal (8-49, 2:22) 3-0						
Bucs, 3, 8:44, Ellison 1-yard run (Husted, kick) (11-65, 6:16) 3-7						
Packers, 4, 8:59, Jackson 8-yard pass from Favre (Jacke, kick) (8-73, 5:00) 10-7						
Bucs, 4, 4:48, Husted 38-yard field goal (8-41, 4:11) 10-10						
Bucs, 5, 11:14, Husted 47-yard field goal (7-48, 3:46) 10-13						
Attendance: 67,557; tickets distributed 72,037; unused 4,480; time 3:08						
Temperature 51, humidity 37, wind NNE 10 mph						

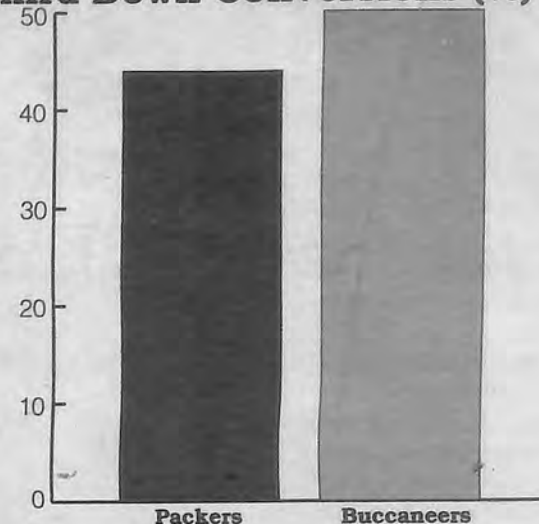
FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

	Packers	Bucs
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	20	19
By Rushing	3	9
By Passing	15	9
By Penalty	2	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	7-16-44%	8-16-50%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	0-0-0%	0-0-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	346	345
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	66	70
Average gain per offensive play	5.2	4.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	61	127
Total Rushing Plays	20	25
Average gain per rushing play	3.1	5.1
NET YARDS PASSING	285	218
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	0-0	3-22
Gross yards passing	285	240
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	46-27-1	42-23-2
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	6.2	4.8
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	4-1-0	3-1-1
PUNTS Number and Average	5-41.8	6-42.7
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	28	27
No. and Yards Punt Returns	3-1	4-27
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	2-32	4-90
No. and Yards Interception Returns	2-29	1-0
PENALTIES Number and Yards	1-5	8-76
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-0	0-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	1
Rushing	0	1
Passing	1	0
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	1-1	1-1
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	1-3	2-2
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	10	13
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:20	34:26

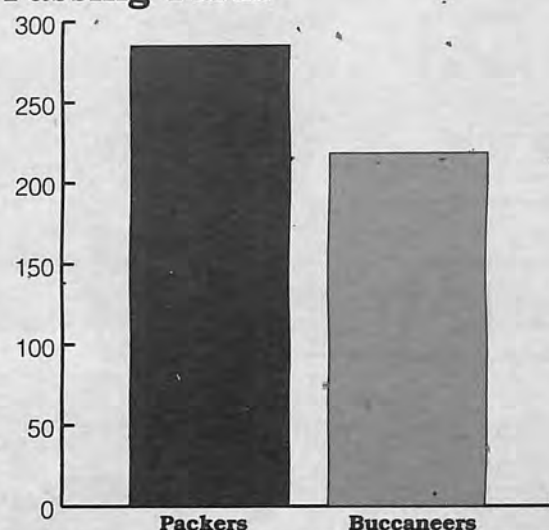
Rushing Yards



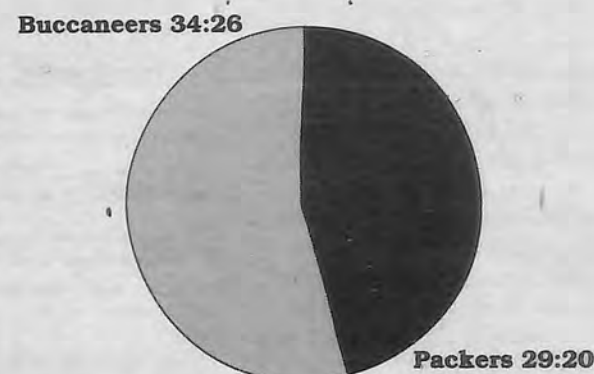
Third Down Conversions (%)



Passing Yards



Time of Possession



GREEN BAY PACKERS

	Net		Long	TD	
	Att.	Yds.			
RUSHING					
Bennett	15	42	2.8	9	0
Levens	5	19	3.8	13	0
PASSING	Att.	Com.	Yds.	TKD	Yds.
Favre	46	27	285	0	0
PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD	
Brooks	9	122	35	0	
Bennett	5	30	11	0	
Jackson	4	54	19	1	
Levens	4	32	12	0	
Ingram	2	19	16	0	
Morgan	2	16	15	0	
Chmura	1	12	12	0	
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD	
Butler	1	29	29	0	
Kelly	1	0	0	0	
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20
Hentrich	5	209	41.8	0	2
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Freeman	3	1	-1	1	0
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Freeman	2	0	32	22	0

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

	Net		Long	TD	
	Att.	Yds.			
RUSHING					
Rhett	22	118	5.4	21	0
Dilfer	1	11	11.0	11	0
Ellison	2	-2	-1.0	1	1

	Net		Long	TD	
	Att.	Com.			
PASSING					
Dilfer	42	23	240	3	22
PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	LG	TD	
Copeland	8	122	23	0	
Hawkins	6	65	16	0	
Harris	3	23	9	0	
Moore	3	17	8	0	
Thomas	1	8	8	0	
Harper	1	7	7	0	
Ellison	1	-2	-2	0	
INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD	
Johnson	1	0	0	0	
PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20
Roby	6	256	42.7	1	2
PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Edmonds	4	1	27	16	0
KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Edmonds	2	0	52	28	0
Ellison	2	0	38	26	0

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Unofficial							
T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR	
Butler	7	2	0.0	0.0	1	3	0
Prior	6	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Simmons	4	4	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Koonce	4	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Evans	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Jones	4	0	2.0	15.0	0	0	0
Kelly	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Harris	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Crawford	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
LaBounty	2	0	1.0	7.0	0	1	0

McGill	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Jurkovic	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mullen	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Newsome	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
[35]	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Strickland	0	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Unofficial							
T	A	SK	YL	INT.	PD	FR	
Nickerson	4	9	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Brooks	7	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Dimry	6	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Mayhew	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Marts	2	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Johnson	3	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0
Curry	2	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Ahanotu	1	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Sapp	0	3	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Everett	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Lynch	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Stargell	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	2	0
Bouie	1	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Wheeler	0	2	0.0	0.0	0	1	0
Culpepper	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Dotson	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
DuBose	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Gant	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0

KEY: T=Tackle, A=Assist, SK=Sack, YL=Yards Lost
INT.=Interceptions, PD=Pass Defense, FR=Fumble Recovery

Reggie's absence hurts

TAMPA, Fla. — Packer players were absolutely, positively ready to play their best football.

While it would be a real stretch, in fact a bold-faced lie, to say the Bucs were a good team, they ain't all bad. They had lost five of six and were embarrassed at Minnesota, so the Tampa players did what most people who are competitive enough to be in the NFL would do. They fought back and fought back hard.

Nothing came easy for the Packers Sunday night, especially on offense.

The Green Bay defense missed a number of tackles, but Errict Rhett had a lot to do with that. If the Buccaneers were going to go down on national TV (their only appearance of the year by the way) they were going to go down swinging. Of course, as it turned out, they didn't go down at all.

How much did the absence of Reggie White have to do with that? The glaring statistic is this: With Reggie White two weeks ago, the Bucs could muster only 42 yards rushing. Without Reggie, the Bucs piled up 127 yards on the ground, averaging better than 5 yards a carry. Playing the run is a very under-appreciated part of Reggie's game. He's nearly impossible to



Larry McCarren
Featured columnist

consistently run at, and his teammates know that.

Since this is a family publication. Oh, poop!

The Rams lose so a Packer win over

Tampa Bay Sunday clinches a playoff spot. If that wasn't enough to add a little pep to the step, the Cowboys also lost. That meant a Packer win would pull them even record-wise with Dallas and San Francisco. The tie-breaker would favor the Cowboys and 49ers, but with two games to go, anything could happen.

Major problem. Anything did happen. Instead of pulling even with Dallas and San Francisco, the Packers dropped back toward the rest of the Central Division pack by losing to Tampa Bay 13-10 in overtime.

With so much to gain, how could Green Bay lose. First and foremost, whatever happened earlier Sunday, especially the Dallas defeat, would have little or no effect on how the Packers played against the Buccaneers. Mental readiness begins on Wednesday when teams start preparing for each other, not on Sunday afternoon. In football-speak, "you just can't turn it on," is a tried and true expression.

Being "flat" is a simple explanation for what's usually a more complex situation, but the fact of the matter is, not enough when an opponent can't attack one side of the line of scrimmage.

When an opponent can't attack one

side of the line of scrimmage, only one option remains. It's certainly an advantage to have a pretty good idea of where the ball is going to be run.

In no way, shape, or form was Matt LaBounty a liability against Tampa Bay. He had a sack, a couple tackles and relentless effort. It's just that he isn't Reggie, and can't affect an entire offense the way Reggie does. Nobody can.

Despite a defense without Reggie and an offense that wasn't able to come up with the big play, Green Bay still had a chance to win it. Of course, the play that stands out is Chris Jacke's miss from 45 yards out. It may stand out, but that kick has plenty of company in the shortcoming category. If the Packers are at their best collectively, the game wouldn't have come down to that kick.

The Packers are still in the NFC Central driver's seat, but a couple of back-seat drivers, namely Detroit and Minnesota, loom rather large in the rear view mirror. Green Bay has to ignore the distractions and keep its eyes focused squarely on the road ahead.

The Packers win two, they're Central Division champs and not even the NFL's tie-breaking maze can mess with that.

White misses 1st NFL game

By Todd Korth

TAMPA, Fla. — Reggie White was there and so were his teammates, gathering around him, seeking motivation and leadership before and during the game Sunday night against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The only problem with that picture was White was in street clothes and not a Packer uniform.

For the first time in his 11-year career, the NFL's all-time sack leader did not play in a game. It snapped a string of 166 games, 163 of which he has started.

"It was very emotional for Reggie because he hasn't missed a ballgame since he's been playing," said receiver Mark Ingram. "He told us how he felt about that and made us realize what we were playing for. We realized what we were playing for — best record in the NFC and a playoff spot. We just didn't get the job done."

White was missing, but so were a few other defensive starters, including safety George Teague (toe) and Craig Newsome, who suffered a blow to the head early in the second quarter. The Packers also played without linebacker George Koonce for part of the game after Koonce sprained his wrist in the first half.

Still, the Packers weren't making any excuses for the absence of White and the two other starters after the Buccaneers, ranked 28th in offense in the NFL coming into the game, scored just enough to surprise the Packers.

"I think we adjusted well, we played hard and that's all you can ask out of the defense," said nose tackle John Jurkovic. "You go out there, you play hard, you play tough. We'd like to have all of our guys in there ... unfortunately we didn't have them, but we went out, played tough and busted our (butt)."

It was not immediately known whether or not White, who also injured knee ligaments Nov. 5 at Minnesota, would play on Saturday at New Orleans.

"Guys get hurt and injuries are part of the game," said Packers coach Mike Holmgren. "We can't depend on Reggie White to win every game for us."

Matt LaBounty was informed earlier in the day on Sunday that he was going to start for White and had a solid performance. LaBounty sacked Bucs quarterback Trent Dilfer for a loss of seven yards on Tampa Bay's first series of the game and finished with two tackles and a batted down pass.

"Reggie went out and tried it out, but I guess he still had quite a bit of soreness in



Reggie White

it," said LaBounty. "It must be a significant amount because Reggie pretty much plays with a lot of pain anytime. I'm hoping he'll come back next week and help us out."

First TD: Keith Jackson, who joined the Packers in October after a 91-day holdout, caught his first touchdown as a Packer in the fourth quarter and finished with four catches for 54 yards. The four catches were the most he's had in the seven games he's played in this season and has a total of 12 for the season.

"It's all about winning and losing," said Jackson. "Since we lost all of that is no good. All is negated. If we would have won, it would have been a great game because I thought I played well out there. But in a loss, you always question, 'could



Matt LaBounty

I make one more play, or did I have an opportunity to make one more play?"

But Jackson gave Tampa Bay credit.

"I think a lot of people underestimated Tampa and I think we underestimated Tampa," said Jackson. "Or they played above their heads, one of the two."

Playoff picture: The Packers had a big chance to tie Dallas, which lost to Philadelphia on Sunday, for the best record in the NFC and clinch a playoff spot, but that went down the tubes with the loss to Tampa Bay.

The Packers can still clinch a third straight playoff spot this Saturday at New Orleans with a victory and also keep ahead of the oncoming Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings, both 8-6.

Offense, defense in a 'zone'

By Todd Korth

As the Green Bay Packers move closer toward the NFL playoffs, they have been gradually turning up the heat on offense and defense in the red zones, the first 20 yards from the goal line.

The Packers offense sputtered midway through the season in the red zone, but ever since back-to-back losses at Detroit and Minnesota, respectively, have been red hot.

Green Bay entered its game against Tampa Bay last Sunday night tied with the Dallas Cowboys for the NFC lead in scoring inside the opponents' 20. The Packers had scored 33 touchdowns and 8 field goals on 50 possessions (66 percent) in the red zone.

"We're pretty darn good there," said Packers quarterback Brett Favre. "When you get the ball in the red zone, the most important thing is to come away with points whether it be a field goal or a



touchdown. We take a lot of pride in getting a touchdown. We're disappointed with a field goal. The whole team has to be aware of it because there's a sense of urgency when you're there.

"It's a short field, which is to the defense's advantage. So, we have to be a little quicker and one step ahead of the defense. We are most of the time."

The Packers entered Sunday's game

having scored 17 times in 18 attempts in the red zone. If Favre wouldn't have taken a knee to run out the the final minute of Green Bay's 24-10 win against the Cincinnati Bengals, they may have run the streak to 18 straight.

During a five-game stretch against division opponents, the Packers had trouble punching the ball into the end zone in losses at Detroit and Minnesota. The Packers came away with two field goals and fumbled away a chance to tie the game against the Lions and committed a number of turnovers against the Vikings.

The Packers' defense, which was last in the NFC in keeping opponents out of the end zone inside the 20 earlier in the season, has improved to 11th in the NFC through 13 games.

"We just feel like if we can keep teams from 10 to 13 points, we'll just ride the wave of our offense," said Packers safety LeRoy Butler after the Packers game against the Bengals. "We'll just let them

take us into the playoffs."

The Packers allowed one touchdown to the Bengals in 3 attempts in the red zone Dec. 3, including a crucial stand early in the fourth quarter when the Bengals moved to the Packer 13 after a 61-yard interception return by Corey Sawyer.

Nose tackle Gilbert Brown is giving the defensive line a little more push up the middle and linebacker Joe Kelly has come up with some key stops filling in for the injured Fred Strickland.

"The deal is to keep the curve up," said defensive coordinator Fritz Shurmur. "I think from the Cleveland game on, we have had some moments where our defense has played darn well. We want to be contributors on this run. I think our guys have done that."

Fine line: Favre has been in good hands behind the Packers offensive line of

SEE NOTEBOOK PAGE 7

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Notebook

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

tackles Ken Ruetters and Earl Dotson, guards Aaron Taylor and Harry Galbreath and center Frank Winters.

Offensive coordinator Sherman Lewis has called the line "the best offensive line since we've been here." It is easy to see why.

The Packers have one of the top quarterbacks in the league in Favre. They also have Bennett, who may soon become the first Packers running back to surpass the 1,000-yard mark since 1978.

Through 13 games, Favre had been sacked 29 times, which ranks 15th in the NFL in sacks per play. But Favre has consistently kept defenses off-balance by throwing to the third, fourth or fifth receivers thanks to the protection he gets from the offensive line.

Tom Lovat, the team's offensive line coach, said the unit's success can be attributed to the progress of 'rookie'

Aaron Taylor at left guard and third-year pro Earl Dotson at right tackle.

Taylor entered the season coming off a knee injury that sidelined him for the entire 1994 season, his rookie year. Dotson earned the starting right tackle spot during training camp has has been a pleasant surprise. While Ruetters protects Favre's blind side at left tackle, Dotson is the team's top drive blocker, according to Lovat.

Winters and Galbreath have been consistent as usual.

The line averages around 299 pounds, a little lighter than other lines in the NFL, but quicker, which helps the screen game and the team's overall perimeter game, according to Lovat.

Injury report: Middle linebacker Fred Strickland began practicing last week after missing the last two weeks with a torn ligament in his left knee. Strickland, who was injured at Cleveland Nov. 19, began practicing Dec. 7 but he didn't take part in

full contact drills.

Receiver/return specialist Charles Jordan has been practicing the last two weeks but has suffered setbacks in his attempt to return from a knee injury he suffered Oct. 8 at Dallas.

Jordan has said the knee isn't quite 100 percent, but will be ready when the Packers need him.

One of two: Quarterbacks coach Steve Mariucci is reportedly one of two finalists for the University of California head coaching job, according to a report in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Notre Dame defensive coordinator Bob Davie is the other finalist.

Mariucci was to have a second interview with Cal officials Dec. 8 in Berkeley, Calif., before heading to Tampa for the Packers-Bucs game on Sunday.

Davie, who reportedly interviewed in Berkeley last week, is in his second year at Notre Dame. He was previously an assistant coach and defensive coordinator at Texas A&M.

Big advantage: The goal for the Packers, of course, in the final two games of this season is to win and get at least one game in the playoffs at Lambeau Field.

The Packers have won 15 of their last

16 games at Lambeau. Late December or early January weather in Green Bay should be to the Packers' advantage.

"It's a tough place to play," said Favre, who is 12-0 when the temperature is below 40 degrees. "Weather is a factor. Fans obviously are a factor. Those things together are tough to deal with."

"I just prepare myself for it. When I know it's going to be cold, I don't like it, but I know how to deal with it."

Running back Edgar Bennett, who has been playing well under all conditions this season, agrees with Favre.

"Looking outside and looking at that weather - huge," said Bennett. "Not too many teams will want to come to Lambeau to play."

Scouting report: The Packers are returning to the site of their last win on artificial turf Saturday against the New Orleans Saints in the Superdome.

The Packers' last win on turf was at New Orleans in 1993. Since then, they have dropped 10 consecutive regular-season games on the artificial surface, including losses this season at Minnesota, Detroit and Dallas. The Packers have won nine in a row and 17 of their last 18 on grass.

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Hard work in off-season helped Favre to progress

Here are some selected questions Packers head coach Mike Holmgren answered at his midweek press conference last week:

Q: What did you see a few years ago in Brett Favre that very, very few people didn't at that time?

"When you make a decision on the quarterback, in particular, I've become and Steve Mariucci and the people who are close to Brett... we know him best and we're in the best position to make that value judgement.

"Obviously, physically he had wonderful tools. He's big, strong, tough, great arm. He's got the package you look for physically. There have been quarterbacks with physical talents that have not made it, then you want to have some other questions answered.

"We all found out the answers last year. After the second season when he had the 25 interceptions (actually 24) or whatever it was, too many. But Brett, to his credit, clearly understood what had happened and worked very hard to improve.

"As soon as I realized he was willing to do that and learn how to become a quarterback instead of just a thrower, then it was easy. I always thought physically he was very gifted. That wasn't a particularly hard decision."

Q: If Reggie White couldn't play, what would that mean to the team?

Holmgren: "If you don't have probably the best defensive player to ever play the game not playing it would be significant, I would think.

"At the same time, we have as much depth in the defensive line as we have in any position. We have good players there. If Reggie White doesn't play that would be significant."

Q: What would it mean to you to win the division?

Holmgren: "That would be the second goal that we set for ourselves. That would be very significant. I think that's one of

Mike Holmgren



Coach's Comments

the things that we set our sights on since we came in here. We've come close, but we haven't done that yet. Just like last year when we had a home playoff game for the first time and then won the game. That was another step. The year before when we got into the playoffs for the first time in a while, that was another step.

"With each year, it's something that hasn't been done around here in a while. That in itself is significant."

Q: Does it improve the mental framework of your team going into the playoffs as a division champion instead of a wild card?

Holmgren: "I'm not sure about that. Once the regular season is over and the playoffs start it's a brand new season. A team's frame of mind shouldn't be dramatically different.

"We're in the playoffs and when the playoffs start, now, this is our frame of mind. The fact that you're a division champion or a wild card team shouldn't enter into your thought process. What it allows you to do perhaps is get a first round bye and home field advantage. As far as the team's frame of mind, I would hope that we go into every game with the same frame of mind."

Q: How much of an advantage is it for a coach to be able to throw your

field goal kicker out there and know he is going to deliver?

Holmgren: "I've always said that we have excellent kickers in Chris Jacke and Craig Hentrich. When Chris went through that little slump earlier in the season I was frustrated and there was no one more frustrated than Chris because he's an outstanding kicker. You kind of know that he was going to work himself through that, which he did."

Q: Could you have ever expected Mark Chmura to have the season he is having?

Holmgren: "I expected him to have this type of season. I always thought he was a fine football player.

"I think (tight ends coach) Andy Reid has done a great job in preparing Mark to play. When Mark came in as a rookie he was just kind of learning how everything worked. He was a little bit stiff and he has really blossomed into a very fine tight end.

"It's not a surprise to me. I always thought he had very good hands and he's become a very good blocker. There's some subtlety in there believe it or not with our tight ends and once he learned all that, he's pretty sneaky in there, too. He's the player I thought he would become and this season is no surprise."

Q: Would you like to have (linebacker) Hardy Nickerson (of Tampa Bay) playing for the Packers some day?

Holmgren: "There are a lot of players I would love to have in here. I think he's a fine player and has been a great player for them. They've built their defense, or at least a good portion of it, around him.

"But he has not said anything to me and I haven't said anything to him."

Q: Is he hard to prepare for? What makes him so difficult?

Holmgren: "He plays with great intensity and emotion and his motor is going 100 mph. He's not the biggest guy in the world, but he's very active, tough to block and tackles well. He's pretty good in



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Holmgren spoke highly of Tampa Bay's Hardy Nickerson last week.

pass coverage."

Q: How do you feel about the turnaround in special teams?

Holmgren: "We're covering kicks well, but we have some good speed and some good young guys who are getting down there and making plays. Our kickers are kicking the ball extremely well this year which helps.

"Really with Craig kicking off, he pops it pretty good most of the time. The kick itself under the new rules is so important. More important than it used to be. When they moved everyone back and changed the tee, that changed that part of the game a little bit. Craig's doing a pretty good job of kicking off. Then it's just a matter of tuning in. ... We had some punts blocked early and made some changes personnel-wise. The guys are listening."

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Packer stats



DEFENSIVE STATISTICS

(unofficial through 13 games)

Player	Total Tackles	Solo	Asst.	Sacks/Yards	Int./Yards	Fum. Rec.	For. Fum.	Pass Def.
Butler	82	65	17	1.0/11.0	4/76	0	1	8
Simmons	74	60	14	3.0/22.0	0/0	1	0	5
Evans	73	59	14	1.0/9.0	2/24	0	1	23
Koonce	62	41	21	1.0/7.0	1/12	0	0	3
Newsome	59	44	15	0.0/0.0	0/3	0	0	11
Strickland	45	33	12	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	1
Teague	45	31	14	0.0/0.0	2/100	1	0	13
White	40	29	11	12.5/102	0/0	0	2	4
Jones	40	23	17	5.5/35	0/0	1	1	0
Jurkovic	31	25	6	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Prior	29	19	10	1.5/14.0	1/9	0	1	4
McGill	24	15	9	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Gi. Brown	18	14	4	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Holland	16	9	7	1.5/7.0	0/0	0	0	1
Wilkins	15	12	3	3.0/14.0	0/0	0	0	1
Kuberski	9	5	4	1.0/5.0	0/0	0	0	1
LaBounty	7	7	0	2.0/13.0	0/0	0	0	0
Kelly	7	5	2	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	1
Crawford	5	5	0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Mullen	2	2	0	0.0/0.0	0/0	0	0	0
Harris	2	1	1	0.0/0.0	0.0	0	0	0

Touchdowns: Jones 1, fumble recovery in end zone vs. Minnesota (10/22); **Special teams tackles:** Wilson 16 (11-5), Crawford 14 (12-2), Prior 12 (9-3), Mickens 11 (7-4), Jervey 10 (6-4), Thomason 9 (7-2), Harris 9 (6-3), Dorsett 9 (4-5), Williams 5 (1-4), McGill 3 (3-0), LaBounty 3 (2-1), Hentrich 3 (2-1), Mullen 3 (1-2), Chmura 2 (1-1), Jordan 2 (1-1), Kelly 2 (1-1), Levens 2 (0-2), Wilner 1 (1-0), Winters 1 (1-0), Bartrum 1 (0-1), Evans 1 (0-1); **Special teams forced fumbles:** Chmura 1, at Dallas (10/8); Jervey 1, at Chicago (9/11); **Misc. tackles:** Dotson 3, Brooks 2, Favre 2, Levens 2, Bennett 1, Freeman 1, Galbreath 1, Jackson 1, Winters 1.

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	Cmp. %	Yds./Att.	TD	TD%	Int.	Int. %	Long	Sack/Lost	Rating
Favre	462	288	3,519	62.3	7.62	31	6.7	12	2.6	99t	29/191	97.3
Detmer	16	8	81	50.0	5.06	1	6.3	1	6.3	25	0/0	59.6
Rubley	6	4	39	66.7	6.50	0	0.0	1	16.7	17	0/0	45.1
TEAM	484	300	3,639	62.0	7.52	32	6.6	14	2.9	99t	29/191	95.0
OPPONENTS	474	266	2,993	56.1	6.31	22	4.6	10	2.1	69t	33/234	81.8

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FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Jacke.....	0/0	5/6	0/2	6/6	2/3
Hentrich.....	0/0	0/0	2/3	1/2	0/0
TEAM.....	0/0	5/6	2/5	7/8	2/3
OPPONENTS.....	2/2	4/4	6/6	2/3	0/0
Jacke: () () () (42G) (42G,43G,34N,20G,27N) (51N,37N,26G) (20G,50G, 28G) (42G,50G,46G) () (28G) () (41G)					
Hentrich: () (32G, 38G) (38N) (47N, 49G) () () () () () () () ()					
Opponents: (19G) (20G) (37G, 32G) () (24G,35G) () () (38G) (36G, 47N, 39G) () (46G,28G) (19G,48G) (28G)					

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Jacke's career: good

Place-kicker closing on 700 points

This has been a different kind of year for Chris Jacke...

"Different," in fact, might be an understatement.

In earlier seasons, the unflappable Texan has been a frequent visitor to the spotlight, delivering no fewer than 14 game-winning kicks over his first six campaigns as the Packers' resident placekicker, accounting for an average of one in every four Green Bay victories over that span.

Such has not been the case in 1995, in part because of an early season hamstring injury which sidelined him for two games, and in part because of fewer opportunities, occasioned by a high-scoring offense which has been producing touchdowns at a brisk rate.

It is a more than slightly perverse twist of fate, admittedly, considering that Jacke stands on the verge of joining the legendary Don Hutson and Paul Hornung in the Packers' ultra-exclusive 700-point club, a development which could well occur in the remaining weeks of the '95 season.

With 686 career points and three games remaining as he pondered the prospect, Jacke was asked what it will mean to him when he does formally scale the 700-point plateau.

"I think it just means I've been here a long time," Jacke rejoined, laughing. "(But) it's great to have been here seven years and be able to do what I've been able to do."

Posing a question of his own, Chris queried, "What is the record...820 points?"

Informed it is 823 by Hutson, he said, "That would probably mean more to me (breaking Hutson's record)...I think I will get a chance to do that next season."

Jacke indicated he was basing his projection, in part, on his experience this season.

"Even missing those two games and not getting to do too much in the early games," he pointed out, "I'm still only 20 points behind the (NFL) leaders...It hurt, missing those games."

Ranked among elite

Born in 1966, the same year Hornung played his final season in a Green Bay uniform, Jacke is clearly awed by the prospect of joining the erstwhile Golden Boy and the legendary Hutson as one of only three players in the Packers' 77-year history to score as many as 700 points in a career.

"It means a lot," he said in contemplating the imminent achievement. "You can't even say my name in the



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfong

Chris Jacke entered Green Bay's game Sunday at Tampa Bay with 686 points.

same breath with them. They did so much for so long...To even be mentioned with those guys is an honor in itself. But I can't put myself in that category of a player yet."

Jacke acknowledged, however, that it has been a career-long objective to one day find himself ranked among the elite players to have played the game.

"Coming into the NFL, I didn't want to be good one year, and bad the next," he said. "I wanted to be steady for my whole career, every year...which to this point I think I've done."

Jacke has, to be sure, done considerably more than that. The former Texas-El Paso athlete, who entered the 1995 season as the seventh most accurate field-goal kicker in National Football League history with a 77.59 percentage, has largely rewritten the Packer record book from a kicking perspective. He already has set 10 all-time standards, including marks for career field goals (148, most completions of 50 yards or longer (15), and most points after touchdown, career (242), and currently shares three others.

Does he, by chance, prize any one of these over the others?

"I really haven't thought about it," Chris replied. "I'd like to say most career field goals. It means you've been here for a while. That's most important in this business...staying around."

Rough start

Chris, pondering how the '95 season has gone for him while awaiting the Packers' final NFC Central Division assignment of the year against Tampa Bay, readily acknowledged the capricious nature of the football fates.

"It has been a different year," Jacke said, adding by way of explanation, "I felt great coming into training camp. Then getting hurt in practice during the week prior to our last preseason game - that just threw everything out of whack....I missed two games and then it took a while to get back to where I was...It's just something I wasn't accustomed to."

Jacke, ordinarily a highly durable athlete, had owned a club-leading streak of 96 consecutive games played prior to suffering the hamstring injury.

Upon his return to health, he proceeded to prove he was all the way back, making 9 consecutive field goal attempts - 6 of them in back-to-back appearances against the Detroit Lions and Minnesota Vikings.

As he spoke, however, he had had only two attempts in the Packers' last four games, a situation he facetiously addressed, observing,

"We're scoring too much...we're scoring too many touchdowns."

"But it's going to come up where we need a game-winning field goal and, hopefully, I'll be ready."

Has the decline in overall opportunities had any psychological effect?

"I think it's more disappointing than anything," Jacke replied. "I don't think it affected me psychologically. I had such high expectations coming into this year. I worked harder than ever in the off-season and I had hopes of a big year. I knew the offense would score a lot of points. Getting hurt early, it didn't work out that way. So I just had to pick it up."

SEE JACKE PAGE 13



Lee Remmel
Featured columnist

Jacke

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

Back to his 'old self'

The hamstring, Jacke was happy to report, has fully healed.

"I'm 100 percent over that," he said. "It's completely healthy. Everything was a little tentative for a few weeks. Once I started to get the confidence back, that it wouldn't happen again, it was all right...I think I popped the hamstring three times."

Special Teams Coach Nolan Cromwell confirmed Jacke's self-diagnosis. "He's back to Chris's old self," Cromwell said. "The strength in his leg...he's back to himself. It's just like nothing had happened."

A 15-year veteran as an NFL player and coach, Cromwell added, "He's so talented. The strength in his leg - he has great range...He's as good as I've ever been around."

Conquers the cold

Kicking in cold weather, which most kickers will regard as the bane of their professional existence, has been a blessing in disguise to Jacke, he will tell you.

"I think, if anything, it's made me a better kicker," he said. "You have to have higher concentration in cold weather, because you can't let the weather bother you too easily."

A reduction in field goal opportunities has been accompanied, Chris noted, by a conspicuous absence of chances to perform his career-long specialty, kicking a game-winner.

"We haven't had any this year," he said. "We've either gotten beat pretty good or we've won pretty big. I thought when we played at Minnesota I'd get a shot, but I didn't...But it'll come along. Those things come along."

Asked if he experiences less pressure now, with the offense producing at a high level, Chris said, "I like to kick the field goals but, of course, if you're not kicking any, you're not missing any."

"But if you're scoring a lot of touchdowns, you're winning games and that's the most important thing...And the defense

Record setter

Chris Jacke holds many Packer all-time kicking records and is on the verge of breaking more: Here's his record collection through Dec. 3:

Career

Most field goals - 148
Most field goal completions of 50 yards or longer - 15
Most points after touchdown - 242
Most consecutive PAT - 142
Highest PAT percentage - 98.78
Most PAT attempted - 245
Most consecutive seasons leading team in field goals - 6

Season

Most field goals, 50 or more yards, 6 (1993)

Game

Most field goals, 5 (vs. Raiders at Los Angeles, Nov. 11, 1990)

Other

Most consecutive field goals, 17 (1993)

Longest field goal, 54 yards, at Detroit, Jan. 2, 1994

Jacke also shares a Packer record for most points in a season with no touchdowns (128). It was set by Chester Marcol in 1972, tied by Jacke in 1993.

Jacke entered Sunday's game at Tampa 4 field goal attempts shy of the record (195) set by Marcol (1972-80).

is playing well. Winning games and getting into the playoffs are the most important things. The other things are secondary."

In any case, Jacke expects to have more than enough opportunities in the years ahead.



Photo by James V. Biever

Chris Jacke is hoping to top Don Hutson's record of 823 points.

Hopes to play forever

Asked how long he might continue to play, he responded with alacrity, "Until they don't pay me any more...They'll have to drag me off the field. I'm going to play as long as they let me."

"Jan Stenerud played a long time and Nick Lowery is still in the league. They've played 16, 17, 18, 19 years."

"I don't know if you can do that in this day and age with free agency, but I'm going to try."

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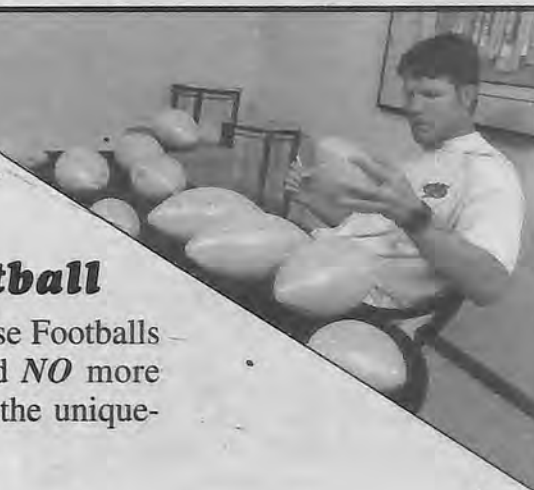
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Lions can't throw it enough to Moore

By David Marran



Notes: Wide receiver Herman Moore set a Lions record with 14 catches in a game in the 27-7 Monday Night win over Chicago Dec. 4 at the Silverdome. ... Moore finished the game with 101 catches for the season. ... Sanders entered Week 15 with 9,994 rushing yards. ... The Lions logged their first sweep of the Bears since 1983. ... Moore set the Lions' single season receiving yardage record in the win over the Bears (1,312). ... Sanders recorded his 2,000th career carry in the Monday Night game. ... Scott Mitchell registered the 26th touchdown pass of the season in the Monday Night game, tying Bobby Layne's 1951 club record.

This week: Jacksonville.

Series: First meeting

Last meeting: None

Scouting report: It's December so it must be Lions' time. Detroit is 24-13 under coach Wayne Fontes in games played on or after Thanksgiving. Fontes is 19-6 in the final four games of the season. ... Look for Sanders to have a big game. Aside from being at home and on turf, Sanders will be facing the Jaguar defense which is 25th in the NFL against the run. ... On the other hand, Jacksonville may have its way with the Lion defense. Detroit ranked 27th in the NFL in total defense through Week 15. The key for the Lion defense may be containing Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell, who is extremely mobile and a good scrambler.



Notes: The Bears ran their December road losing streak to 16 after the 27-7 loss at Detroit Dec. 4. ... Running back Robert Green was lost for the season after breaking a bone in his left leg while playing special teams late in the game at Detroit. ... The loss at Detroit dropped the Bears record on Monday Night Football to 13-26. The Bears MNF road victory is 4-18. ... The game at Detroit marked the first time all season the Bears were held scoreless in the first half. ... Dave Wannstedt has not had a winning record against the NFC Central in any of his three seasons.

This week: Tampa Bay

Series: Bears lead 27-8.

Last meeting: Sept. 17, 1995, at Tampa: Bears 25, Bucs 6

Scouting report: The Bears will need a big push from their front seven against Tampa running back Errict Rhett, who went over the 1,000-yard plateau in the Dec. 3 loss at Minnesota. The Bears have taken three straight from the Bucs.



Notes: Amp Lee's 66-yard touchdown run against Tampa Bay Dec. 3 was the longest of his career. ... Broderick Thomas

matched his season total with 2.5 sacks against Tampa Bay, his former team, Dec. 3. ... Each of the Vikings' four touchdowns against the Bucs traveled at least 23 yards. ... Wide receiver Cris Carter set a Viking record with a touchdown catch in his fifth consecutive game Dec. 3 against the Bucs. Carter entered Week 15 just five catches shy of 100. If he reaches 100, Carter would join former Packer Sterling Sharpe (1992-93) as the only players with at least 100 catches in consecutive seasons.

This week: At San Francisco on Monday Night Football (Dec. 18).

Series: San Francisco leads 17-18-1

Last meeting: Dec. 26, 1994, at Minnesota: Vikings 21, 49ers 14.

Scouting report: The Vikings are 16-14 on Monday Night. ... The Vikes' 14-6 loss to the Bears Oct. 30 halted a four-game Monday Night Football win streak for Minnesota. ... Don't read too much into the fact that the Vikings beat the 49ers last year. The 49ers entered the game with homefield advantage secured throughout the playoffs and used the contest as more of a tuneup than anything else. With Steve Young ailing, the Vikings might see backup Elvis Grbac. ... The Niners have taken six of the last eight games in the series.



Notes: Quarterback Trent Dilfer was ejected from the Bucs' Dec. 3 loss at Minnesota during the third quarter when he jumped on John Randle and punched the Vikings' All-Pro defensive tackle in the facemask. Dilfer thought Randle was hitting too low. "I was just letting him



Detroit Lions photo

Herman Moore

know that I thought it was cheap," Dilfer said. "If it's Steve Young or Jeff Hostetler or Warren Moon, they're going to call him a tough guy but because it's Trent Dilfer, they're probably going to call me out of control or something. ... Moon had some advice for Dilfer: "Don't mess around with those defensive linemen. They can somehow get back at you if they want to." ... Errict Rhett went over 1,000 yards for the second consecutive season in the loss at Minnesota. Rhett and James Wilder (1984-85) are the only Bucs with more than one 1,000-yard season.

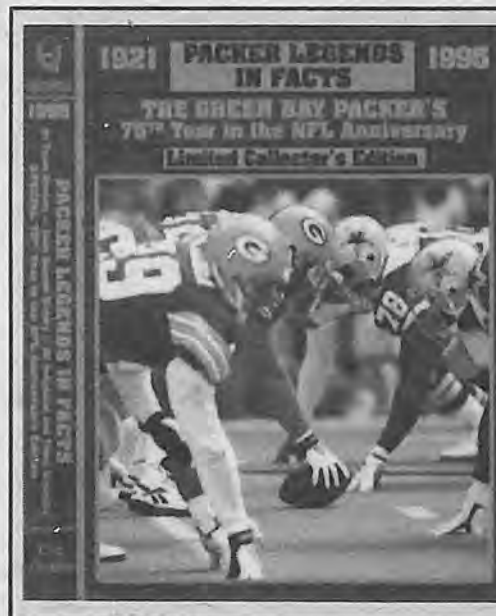
This week: At Chicago

Series: Bears lead 27-8

Last meeting: Sept. 17, 1995, at Tampa: Bears 25, Bucs 6

Scouting report: A game in Chicago in December is not a good combination for the Bucs. ... The Bears have won five in a row from the Bucs in Soldier Field and are 14-2 overall against Tampa in Chicago.

David Marran is sports editor of the Kenosha News.



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Packers put rivalry aside for Bears QBs

The great Packer-Bear rivalry is still alive and well.

It has been no secret: Packer fans don't like the Bears and Bear fans don't like the Packers. It's been that way since the two teams started fighting each other back in the 1920s.

We're talking generations of fans from Green Bay and the Windy City. So what's this sermon all about?

It concerns Jim McMahon, the ex-Bear quarterback signed by the Packers the other day as insurance behind Brett Favre.

OK, so we got an ex-Bear, who quarterbacked his team to a Super Bowl victory as a fourth-year player in 1985!

McMahon suited up in the Green and Gold for the Bengals game Dec. 3. There he was, No. 9, walking on the Packer sidelines. Favre needed no assistance in the Pack's 24-10 victory but he did rush four times — enough to give Coach Mike Holmgren the shivers.

Actually, McMahon is the fourth ex-Bear signed as a Packer quarterback. This was different, though, and McMahon touched on the fierceness of the Packer-Bear thing when he was signed. Last summer McMahon had to make a choice between signing with the Packers or Cleveland Browns. McMahon explained:

"It was a tough decision for me. The biggest reason I ended up going to Cleveland was my family because they had felt the rivalry with the Packer fans."

There was no question McMahon was the most hated of Chicago players, part of which was fostered by another Packer hater, former Bear coach Mike Ditka, Mike, in turn, was disliked by Packer coach Forrest Gregg.

Adding to the excitement was Charles Martin's body slam of McMahon in a game in Chicago. McMahon said he



Concannon



Douglass



Tomczak



McMahon

developed shoulder problems later. The cheap shot made the TV highlights for weeks and into the next season and, of course, the Bears made it sound like a "wrestling body slam."

The first ex-Bear to QB in River City since super sub Zeke Bratkowski was Jack Concannon in 1974. Coach Dan Devine gave up a fifth round draft choice for him and he threw only 54 passes. That was the year Devine bankrupted the team by trading the farm for John Hadl.

The next ex-Bear QB in Packerville was Bobby Douglass, who was brought in by Coach Bart Starr to back up David Whitehurst. The regular QB, Lynn Dickey, was out that year with an injury and Whitehurst led the Pack to an 8-7-1 record, including a 6-1 start. Douglass threw just 12 passes, one for a TD.

The third was Mike Tomczak, who was brought in by Coach Lindy Infante to back up Don Majkowski. It was a tough season and the two QBs pretty much split

the passing. Incidentally, the Pack opened that year against the Philadelphia Eagles. Randall Cunningham went down early and Mr. McMahon came on and led the Birds to a 20-3 win. For the year, Tomczak threw 238 passes, Majkowski 226.

And now comes McMahon, who is playing for his sixth NFL team. Unlike his "wild" image during his years with the Bears, Jim is a dedicated family man now. He and his wife, Nancy, have four children — daughters Ashley, 12, and Alexis, 7, and sons Sean, 11, and Zachary, 4. Mac is 36 and in his 14th NFL season.

It is really amazing that this Packer-Bear thing has persisted this long. In the early days, Packer fans referred to "them" as the Dirty-Bears. The Packers could be pretty nasty when they had to. The Bears' defensive end Lee Artoe was extremely naughty and the Packers decided to get even. A Green Bay blocker let him through the line and halfback Ken Keuper was waiting with a forearm to Artoe's face.

Now, with free agency, more and more Packer and Bear players will be exchanging rosters with each other and feelings will be exchanging rosters with each other, and feelings will be tempered. However, it's still special to beat the Bears.

This whole business was started by the first coaches of the two teams, the Pack's Curly Lambeau and the Bears' owner-coach George Halas. They battled each other for 30 years, first as players and then as coaches, and they rarely spoke to each other.

Strangely, when Curly departed after the 1949 season, the Packers picked a former Bear running back, Gene Ronzani, as their head coach. A lot of the townspeople were up in arms, claiming that Halas pawned off Ronzani on the Packers.



Art Daley Featured columnist

Ronzani had been an assistant coach with the Bears.

Ronzani almost pulled off the steal of the year. The Bears had a young kicker and backup quarterback named George Blanda. Ronzani wanted Blanda, but the Bears were about to trade him to Baltimore. Ronzani stashed Blanda away at his Green Bay home for a week before Halas got wind and canceled the trade and brought Blanda back to Chicago.

Blanda to this day remains as the NFL's longevity king. He played with the Bears 10 years and then moved to the new American Football League, first with Houston and then finishing off 16 more years with the Oakland Raiders. The Hall of Famer played until he was 47.

Ronzani did succeed in bringing some of his Bear teammates to Green Bay, including two guards, Ray Bray and Wash Serini. Bray has been with the Bears for 10 years and finished his career as a Packer. Bray always said he couldn't get out of bed on Mondays and sometimes Tuesdays after a game.

Some 42 years later, another 10-year Bear veteran, Steve McMichael, joined the Packers for his last hurrah. That was in 1994 and now these "old" veterans get up on Mondays and loosen up. They can sleep on Tuesday.

It's great to have a skilled quarterback like McMahon backing up Favre. Like everybody else in Packerland, we're hoping Slim Jim isn't needed.

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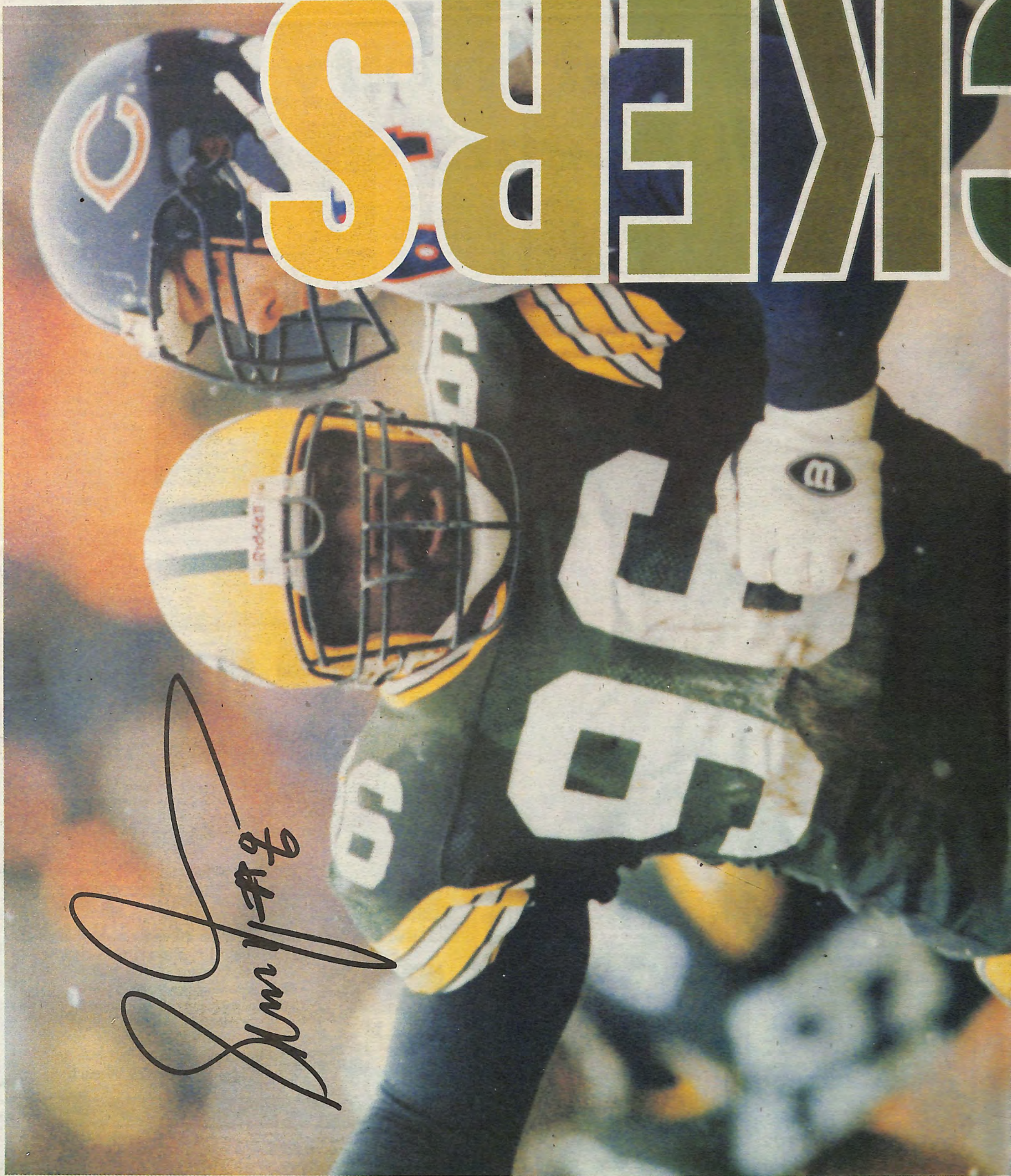
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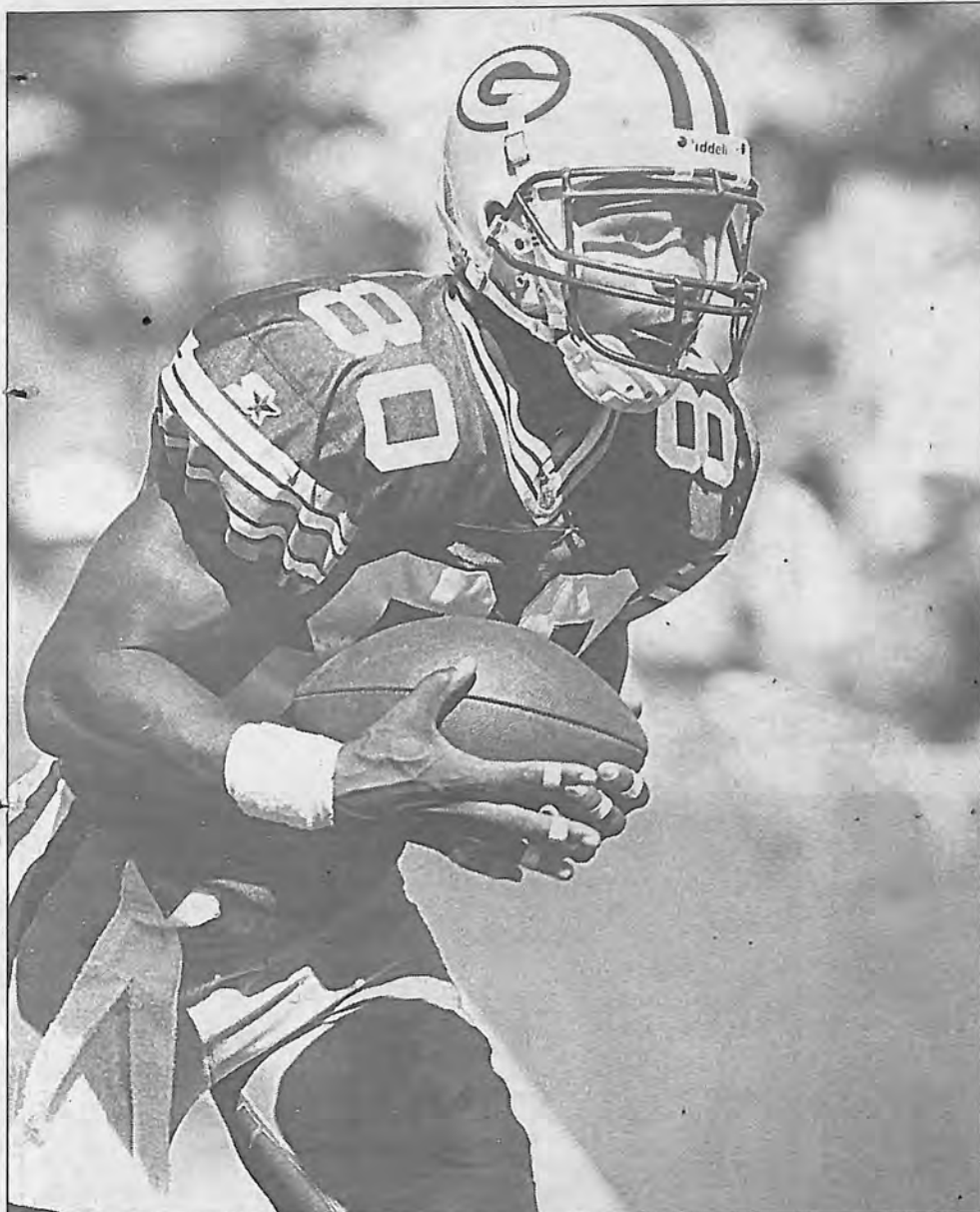


Photo by James V. Biever

Charles Jordan has recovered from a knee injury.



Photo by Mark A. Wallenfang

Antonio Freeman has been impressive filling in for Jordan.

2 returners, 1 ball

The ability of Freeman, Jordan give Packers a pleasant problem

By Tim Froberg

Coaching special teams can be about as relaxing as teaching cobras to respond to music.

Nolan Cromwell's no snake charmer, but he knows he's been charmed with his latest problem: two capable return men and playing time for only one.

Rookie Antonio Freeman and third-year pro Charles Jordan present a pleasant dilemma. Jordan, the team's primary return man earlier this season, has returned to practice after arthroscopic knee surgery Nov. 7 to repair a slight cartilage tear in his right knee, an injury originally suffered in Green Bay's fifth game against the Dallas Cowboys.

However, Freeman has taken advantage of Jordan's absence to make a valu-

able contribution as the return specialist and delay the return of a now-healthy Jordan.

Freeman has handled both kickoff and punt return duties since the Nov. 12 Chicago game and also did double duty during the New York Giants and Jacksonville Jaguars contests when Jordan sat out with a shoulder injury. Freeman was averaging 23.8 yards per kickoff return on 16 opportunities, which would rank him fifth in the NFC had he had enough chances to qualify for the rankings. As a punt returner, Freeman ranks ninth in the NFC with an 8.9-yard per return average on 28 attempts. Freeman's longest kickoff return was a 45-yard burst against Cincinnati, while his biggest punt return was 26 yards through 13 games.

Jordan has returned 21 kickoffs for a 21.1 average and 21 punts for a 10.1 mark.



Freeman



Jordan

Jordan's long on kickoff returns was 33 yards going into Sunday's game at Tampa Bay and his best punt return was 18 yards.

The two have also made contributions as receivers. Jordan has seven receptions for 35 yards and two touchdowns, while Freeman has five catches for 82 yards.

Cromwell says he's satisfied with both as return men and that neither has won the job outright. Who the primary return man will be the final two games and during the playoffs depends on who is declared inactive prior to the game.

"It depends on who's active and who's not," said Cromwell. "We've never been in the situation where we've had them both active. If that happens, I'd consider

putting them both back on kickoff returns. As for punt returns, I don't know. They're both very good.

"There's no set plan. I feel comfortable with both of them and I'll make those decisions as they come down. I'm pleased with their returns. They've both made good decisions with the ball. I don't think we've blocked as well as we could on returns, but those two guys are doing well."

Freeman, the final of four third-round selections in the 1995 NFL draft, feels as though he's played well enough to retain his dual role as punt and kickoff returner. Jordan, acquired from the Raiders for a fifth-round pick in last year's draft, declined to be interviewed.

"I feel like right now it's my job and when Charles gets back he's going to have to take it from me," said the soft-spoken Freeman. "Every time I'm out there I build more confidence."

The two have different builds and styles. Jordan (5-foot-10, 183 pounds) is short and compact, and is Green Bay's

SEE RETURNERS PAGE 19

■ Returners

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

fastest receiver. Freeman is a tall (6-2), fluid athlete with long strides and isn't quite as explosive as Jordan. But he has good speed and appears to be the more instinctive, creative returner of the two, with the ability to quickly read and react with the football.

"Antonio has good vision and is able to read and set up blocks very well," said Cromwell.

Freeman says a return man has to not only follow his blocks, but his instincts as well.

"It's about 90 percent instinct and improvisation," Freeman said. "I improvised during that return against the Bengals (37 yards). Sometimes those things don't work out, but you have to try and make a play. Special teams can make or break a game and it's a duty I've had for a long time now. It's something I've always enjoyed doing."

Freeman's ability was one of the primary reasons the Packers snagged him out of Virginia Tech where he finished sixth in the nation in punt return average (12.0) last season. His credentials as a receiver were also impressive with 121 career receptions and 18 touchdowns, both school records. But Green Bay felt that he could make an immediate contribution as a return man, while developing his overall receiving skills.

However, Freeman has already exceeded expectations as a receiver and has a chance to follow in the footsteps of Robert Brooks. Brooks made his initial impact in the NFL as a return man, before blossoming into a standout receiver.

"It just feels great to contribute," said Freeman. "Earlier in the season it was extremely frustrating not playing much. I feel like I'm a much bigger part of the team now and a lot closer to everyone. It's been a great deal of fun. I can't even explain how much fun it's been."

Brooks, one of the league's finest return men before being pulled off special teams this year to concentrate on his duties as the team's go-to receiver, quickly gave Freeman his seal of approval after Freeman generated a career-high 132 return yards in Green Bay's 35-28 win over the Bears Nov. 12 at Lambeau Field.

"I love to watch him," said Brooks. "He's exciting. He was getting me hyper because every time he touched the ball I'd follow with a touchdown."

Neither Freeman nor Jordan has returned a punt or kickoff for a touchdown through Dec. 3, but Freeman is confident it will happen before the year is over.

"I've had some good holes to run through and I've been close a few times," he said. "We're going to keep working on it and I think we're going to pop one

before it's all through."

Whether it's Freeman or Jordan, Cromwell is confident the Packers will get many happy returns.

Tim Froberg covers the Packers for the Marinette EagleHerald.

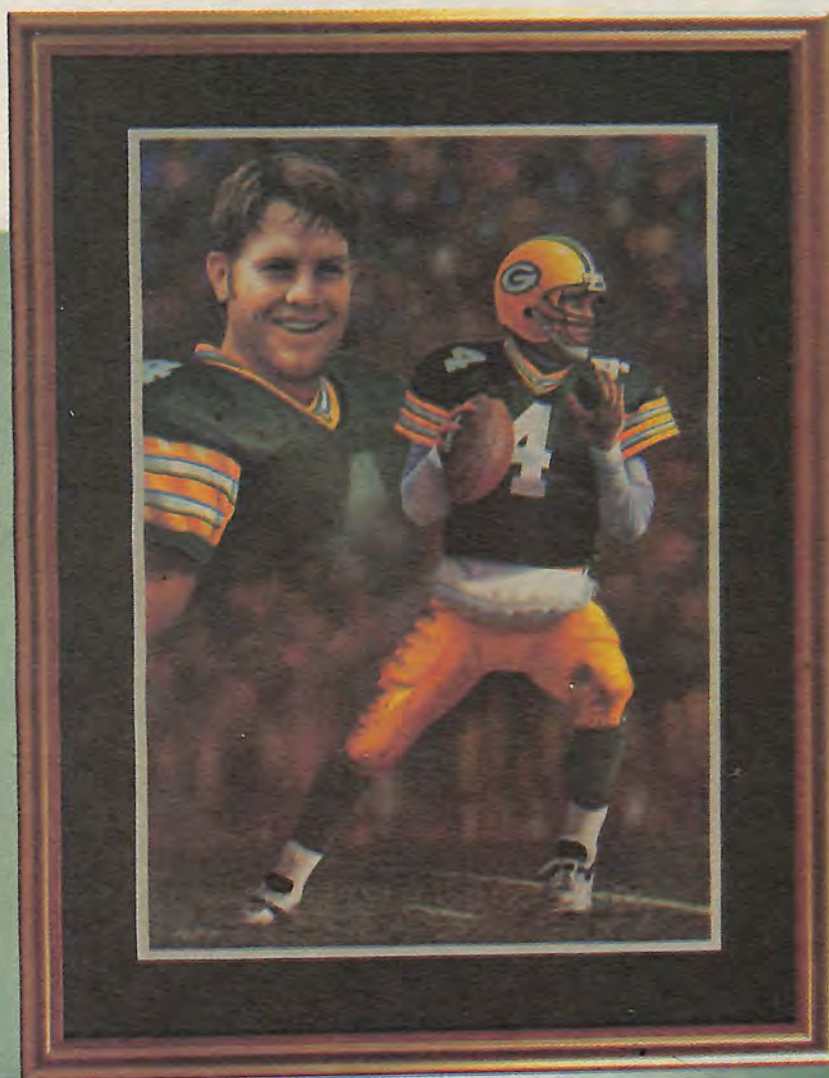
"There's no set plan. I feel comfortable with both of them and I'll make those decisions as they come down. I'm pleased with their returns. They've both made good decisions with the ball."

Special teams coach Nolan Cromwell



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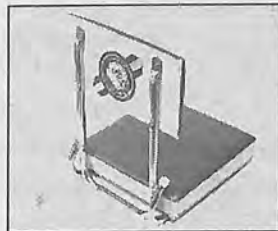


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(Central Time)

Week 1

Sunday, Sept. 3

St. Louis 17, **PACKERS** 14
 New England 17, Cleveland 14
 Atlanta 23, Carolina 20, OT
 Tampa Bay 21, Philadelphia 6
 Miami 52, New York 14
 Kansas City 34, Seattle 10
 Chicago 31, Minnesota 14
 Cincinnati 24, Indianapolis 21, OT
 Houston 10, Jacksonville 3
 San Francisco 24, New Orleans 22
 Pittsburgh 23, Detroit 20
 Oakland 17, San Diego 7
 Washington 27, Arizona 7
 Denver 22, Buffalo 7

Monday, Sept. 4

Dallas 35, N.Y. Giants 0

Week 2

Sunday, Sept. 10

Miami 20, New England 3
 Pittsburgh 34, Houston 17
 Minnesota 20, Detroit 10
 Kansas City 20, N.Y. Giants 17, OT
 Dallas 31, Denver 21
 San Diego 14, Seattle 10
 San Francisco 41, Atlanta 10
 Oakland 20, Washington 8
 St. Louis 17, New Orleans 13
 Buffalo 31, Carolina 9
 Cleveland 22, Tampa Bay 6
 Indianapolis 27, N.Y. Jets 24, OT
 Cincinnati 24, Jacksonville 17
 Philadelphia 31, Arizona 19

Monday, Sept. 11

PACKERS 27, Chicago 24

Week 3

Sunday, Sept. 17

PACKERS 14, N.Y. Giants 6
 Chicago 25, Tampa Bay 6
 San Diego 27, Philadelphia 21
 Kansas City 23, Oakland 17, OT
 St. Louis 31, Carolina 10
 Arizona 20, Detroit 17
 San Francisco 28, New England 3
 N.Y. Jets 27, Jacksonville 10
 Buffalo 20, Indianapolis 14
 Cleveland 14, Houston 7
 Atlanta 27, New Orleans 24, OT
 Seattle 24, Cincinnati 21
 Denver 38, Washington 31
 Dallas 23, Minnesota 17, OT

Monday, Sept. 18

Miami 23, Pittsburgh 10

Week 4

BYE: Buffalo, Carolina, Indianapolis, Miami,
 New England, Seattle

Sunday, Sept. 24

PACKERS 24, Jacksonville 14
 N.Y. Giants 45, New Orleans 29
 Minnesota 44, Pittsburgh 24
 San Diego 17, Denver 6
 Dallas 34, Arizona 20
 Oakland 48, Philadelphia 17
 Cleveland 35, Kansas City 17
 St. Louis 34, Chicago 28
 Tampa Bay 14, Washington 6
 Atlanta 13, N.Y. Jets 3
 Houston 38, Cincinnati 28

Monday, Sept. 25

Detroit 27, San Francisco 24

Week 5

BYE: Bears, Detroit, **PACKERS**, Minnesota
 Sunday, Oct. 1

Atlanta 30, New England 17
 Miami 26, Cincinnati 23
 Tampa Bay 20, Carolina 13
 Philadelphia 15, New Orleans 10
 Washington 27, Dallas 23
 Indianapolis 21, St. Louis 18
 Kansas City 24, Arizona 3
 Jacksonville 17, Houston 16
 Seattle 27, Denver 10
 Pittsburgh 31, San Diego 16
 San Francisco 20, N.Y. Giants 6
 Oakland 47, N.Y. Jets 10

Monday, Oct. 2

Buffalo 22, Cleveland 19

Week 6

BYE: Atlanta, New Orleans, St. Louis,
 San Francisco

Sunday, Oct. 8

NFL STANDINGS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Central

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
PACKERS	9	5	0	.643	346	272
Detroit.....	8	6	0	.571	355	326
Minnesota.....	8	6	0	.571	358	321
Chicago.....	7	7	0	.500	347	330
Tampa Bay.....	7	7	0	.500	218	267

Eastern

yDallas.....	10	4	0	.714	377	258
Philadelphia.....	9	5	0	.643	283	298
N.Y. Giants.....	5	9	0	.357	253	292
Arizona.....	4	10	0	.286	242	364
Washington.....	4	10	0	.286	271	319

Western

San Francisco.....	10	4	0	.714	393	200
Atlanta.....	8	6	0	.571	317	301
St. Louis.....	7	7	0	.500	264	342
Carolina.....	6	8	0	.429	251	288
New Orleans.....	6	8	0	.429	284	314

x — clinched division title y — clinched playoff berth

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Buffalo.....	9	5	0	.643	310	287
Indianapolis.....	8	6	0	.571	297	282
Miami.....	8	6	0	.538	324	281
New England.....	6	8	0	.429	260	326
N.Y. Jets.....	3	11	0	.214	227	349

Central

xPittsburgh.....	10	4	0	.714	347	276
Cincinnati.....	6	8	0	.429	312	324
Houston.....	5	9	0	.357	297	301
Cleveland.....	4	10	0	.286	242	322
Jacksonville.....	3	11	0	.214	251	339

Western

xKansas City.....	11	3	0	.846	306	208
Oakland.....	8	6	0	.571	310	257
San Diego.....	7	7	0	.500	267	282
Seattle.....	7	7	0	.500	316	330
Denver.....	7	7	0	.500	340	297

Dallas 34, **PACKERS** 24
 Bears 31, Carolina 27
 Buffalo 29, N.Y. Jets 10
 Philadelphia 37, Washington 34, OT
 Minnesota 23, Houston 17, OT
 Indianapolis 27, Miami 24, OT
 N.Y. Giants 27, Arizona 21, OT
 Denver 37, New England 3
 Tampa Bay 19, Cincinnati 16
 Jacksonville 20, Pittsburgh 16
 Detroit 38, Cleveland 20
 Oakland 34, Seattle 14

Monday, Oct. 9

Kansas City 29, San Diego 23, OT

Week 7

BYE: Cleveland, Cincinnati, Houston, Pittsburgh

Thursday, Oct. 12

St. Louis 21, Atlanta 19

Sunday, Oct. 15

PACKERS 30, Detroit 21
 Kansas City 31, New England 26
 Tampa Bay 20, Minnesota 17, OT
 Chicago 30, Jacksonville 27
 Carolina 26, N.Y. Jets 15
 Dallas 23, San Diego 9
 Buffalo 27, Seattle 21
 Philadelphia 17, N.Y. Giants 14
 Indianapolis 18, San Francisco 17
 New Orleans 33, Miami 30
 Arizona 24, Washington 20

Monday, Oct. 16

Denver 27, Oakland 0

Week 8

BYE: Arizona, Dallas, N.Y. Giants, Philadelphia

Thursday, Oct. 19

Cincinnati 27, Pittsburgh 9

Sunday, Oct. 22

PACKERS 38, Minnesota 21
 Chicago 35, Houston 32
 N.Y. Jets 17, Miami 16
 Carolina 20, New Orleans 3
 Atlanta 24, Tampa Bay 21
 Kansas City 21, Denver 7
 Oakland 30, Indianapolis 17
 San Diego 35, Seattle 25
 Jacksonville 23, Cleveland 15
 Washington 36, Detroit 30, OT
 San Francisco 44, St. Louis 10

Monday, Oct. 23

New England 27, Buffalo 14

Week 9

BYE: Denver, Kansas City, Los Angeles,
 San Diego

Sunday, Oct. 29

Detroit 24, **PACKERS** 16
 Indianapolis 17, N.Y. Jets 10
 Dallas 28, Atlanta 13
 Carolina 20, New England 17, OT
 Arizona 20, Seattle 14, OT
 Houston 19, Tampa Bay 7
 Pittsburgh 24, Jacksonville 7
 Cleveland 29, Cincinnati 26, OT

Philadelphia 20, St. Louis 9
 Miami 23, Buffalo 6
 New Orleans 11, San Francisco 7
 N.Y. Giants 24, Washington 15

Monday, Oct. 30

Bears 14, Minnesota 6

Week 10

BYE: Jacksonville, Tampa Bay

Sunday, Nov. 5

Minnesota 27, **PACKERS** 24
 Houston 37, Cleveland 10
 New Orleans 19, St. Louis 10
 Oakland 20, Cincinnati 17
 Pittsburgh 37, Chicago 34, OT
 Denver 38, Arizona 6
 Miami 24, San Diego 14
 New England 20, N.Y. Jets 7
 Atlanta 34, Detroit 22
 Kansas City 24, Washington 3
 Buffalo 16, Indianapolis 10
 Carolina 13, San Francisco 7
 Seattle 30, N.Y. Giants 28

Monday, Nov. 6

Dallas 34, Philadelphia 12

Week 11

BYE: N.Y. Jets, Washington

Sunday, Nov. 12

PACKERS 35, Chicago 28
 Oakland 17, N.Y. Giants 13
 New England 34, Miami 17
 Seattle 47, Jacksonville 30
 Detroit 27, Tampa Bay 24
 San Francisco 38, Dallas 20
 Philadelphia 31, Denver 13
 New Orleans 17, Indianapolis 14
 Buffalo 23, Atlanta 17
 Cincinnati 32, Houston 25
 St. Louis 28, Carolina 17
 Kansas City 22, San Diego 7
 Minnesota 30, Arizona 24, OT

Monday, Nov. 13

Pittsburgh 20, Cleveland 3

Week 12

Sunday, Nov. 19

PACKERS 31, Cleveland 20
 Tampa Bay 17, Jacksonville 16
 Pittsburgh 49, Cincinnati 31
 Carolina 27, Arizona 7
 Detroit 24, Chicago 17
 Buffalo 28, N.Y. Jets 26
 Minnesota 43, New Orleans 24
 Seattle 27, Washington 20
 Indianapolis 24, New England 10
 Atlanta 31, St. Louis 6
 Philadelphia 28, N.Y. Giants 19
 Denver 30, San Diego 27
 Dallas 34, Oakland 21
 Kansas City 20, Houston 13

Monday, Nov. 20

San Francisco 40, Miami 20

Week 13

Thursday, Nov. 23

Detroit 44, Minnesota 38
 Dallas 24, Kansas City 12

Sunday, Nov. 26

PACKERS 35, Tampa Bay 13
 New England 35, Buffalo 25
 Chicago 27, N.Y. Giants 24
 Houston 42, Denver 33
 Pittsburgh 20, Cleveland 17
 Arizona 40, Atlanta 37, OT
 Indianapolis 36, Miami 28
 Cincinnati 17, Jacksonville 13
 Philadelphia 14, Washington 7
 N.Y. Jets 16, Seattle 10
 San Francisco 41, St. Louis 13
 New Orleans 34, Carolina 26

Monday, Nov. 27

San Diego 12, Oakland 6

Week 14

Thursday, Nov. 30

N.Y. Giants 10, Arizona 6

Sunday, Dec. 3

PACKERS 24, Cincinnati 10
 Pittsburgh 21, Houston 7
 New Orleans 31, New England 17
 Minnesota 31, Tampa Bay 17
 Kansas City 29, Oakland 23
 Washington 24, Dallas 17
 San Francisco 27, Buffalo 17
 Carolina 13, Indianapolis 10
 Miami 21, Atlanta 20
 St. Louis 23, N.Y. Jets 20
 Denver 31, Jacksonville 23
 San Diego 31, Cleveland 13
 Seattle 26, Philadelphia 14

Monday, Dec. 4

Detroit 27, Chicago 27

Week 15

Saturday, Dec. 9

Minnesota 27, Cleveland 11
 San Diego 28, Arizona 25

Sunday, Dec. 10

Tampa Bay 13, **PACKERS** 10, OT
 New England 31, N.Y. Jets 28
 Atlanta 19, New Orleans 14
 Philadelphia 20, Dallas 17
 Detroit 24, Houston 17
 Pittsburgh 29, Oakland 10
 Buffalo 45, St. Louis 27
 Indianapolis 41, Jacksonville 31
 San Francisco 31, Carolina 10
 Cincinnati 16, Chicago 10
 Seattle 31, Denver 27
 N.Y. Giants 20, Washington 13

Monday, Dec. 12

Miami 13, Kansas City 6

Week 16

Saturday, Dec. 16

New England at Pittsburgh 11:30 a.m.
PACKERS at New Orleans 3 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 17

Tampa Bay at Chicago Noon
 Jacksonville at Detroit Noon
 Miami at Buffalo Noon
 Cincinnati at Cleveland Noon
 N.Y. Jets at Houston Noon
 Atlanta at Carolina Noon
 Arizona at Philadelphia Noon
 Washington at St. Louis Noon
 Denver at Kansas City 3 p.m.
 San Diego at Indianapolis 3 p.m.
 N.Y. Giants at Dallas 3 p.m.
 Oakland at Seattle 7 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 18

Minnesota at San Francisco 8 p.m.

Week 17

Saturday, Dec. 23

San Diego at N.Y. Giants 11:30 a.m.
 Detroit at Tampa Bay 3 p.m.
 New England at Indianapolis 7 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 24

Pittsburgh at **PACKERS** Noon
 Philadelphia at Chicago Noon
 Houston at Buffalo Noon
 Seattle at Kansas City Noon
 Cleveland at Jacksonville Noon
 San Francisco at Atlanta Noon
 New Orleans at N.Y. Jets Noon
 Minnesota at Cincinnati Noon
 Carolina at Washington 3 p.m.
 Denver at Oakland 3 p.m.
 Miami at St. Louis 3 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 25

Dallas at Arizona 8 p.m.

Seven Saints to keep an eye on

Left tackle **William Roaf** is considered to be among the top offensive linemen in the National Football League and a solid run-blocker but has given up more sacks this season than his first two years combined.

Roaf, a third-year pro and the Saints' first-round pick (8th player overall, 1st offensive lineman) in 1993, will certainly earn consideration for a second straight Pro Bowl invite. Roaf was just the fourth offensive lineman and first tackle in Saints history to be voted to the Pro Bowl.

While Roaf, who hasn't missed a snap in three years, is a key in the Saints' offensive line, there are others who have been playing well for the Saints.

Defensive tackle **Wayne Martin** is considered to be the favorite for team MVP and its steadiest performer.

Martin has been among the league leaders in sacks all season (10 through 13 games) and has a shot at establishing new career-highs for sacks and tackles.

Left guard **Jim Dombrowski** is having a Pro-Bowl-caliber year.

At one point, Dombrowski was award-

ed game balls for his play in three straight games. Saints coach Jim Mora has been extremely vocal in his praise of the 10-year veteran.

Tight end **Wesley Walls** has emerged as the team's second-leading pass catcher and one of Jim Everett's favorite targets in the clutch. Also, he's proven to have good hands and has made the national highlight shows with several spectacular catches this season.

Defensive end **Renaldo Turnbull** has been slowed by a torn biceps injury much of the season but still ranks among the NFC leaders in sacks.

Kick returner **Tyrone Hughes** hasn't had a kick return touchdown all season, but is among the league leaders in kickoff return yardage and had the NFC's longest punt return — a 74-yarder at San Francisco. He was averaging 24.1 yards on kickoffs and 8.6 on punts.

Quarterback **Jim Everett**, in second season as a Saint, had an 86.9 rating through 13 games, completing 60.6 percent of his passes. He recently surpassed 30,000 yards passing for his career.



New Orleans Saints photo

Left tackle William Roaf has been a solid run-blocker for the Saints.



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SATISFACTION GUARANTEED



Facts 'n' Stats

WHEN

Saturday, Dec. 16, 1995

WHERE

Superdome, New Orleans, La.

TIME

3 p.m., CDT

TV

FOX

RADIO

Packer Radio Network with Jim Irwin, Max McGee, Larry McCarren

THE SERIES

Packers lead Saints 12-4.

LAST TIME

Nov. 14, 1993, at New Orleans:
Packers 19, Saints 17

THE COACHES

In his 10th season with the Saints, **Jim Mora** continues his string as the longest-tenured coach in the NFC and second-longest in the league to Miami's Don Shula. His record against Green Bay is 2-7.

Mike Holmgren, in his 4th season as Green Bay's head coach, has presided over the third winning era in Packer history, behind Curly Lambeau and Vince Lombardi. He is 36-25 through Dec. 3.

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Saints hoping to cool red-hot Pack

By Laura Veras Marran

After a poor start brought an early end to New Orleans' playoff aspirations, the Saints have righted themselves into a potential spoiler as they close out their NFC slate in the Superdome Saturday against the Packers.

Going into Week 15, the Saints faced rival Atlanta with hopes of reaching .500 for the first time this season. This week, New Orleans faces a Packer team whose goals are quite a bit higher.

"It's a crazy league. You never know what might happen," Saints coach Jim Mora said.

Offense: Veteran QB Jim Everett continues to write his own page in the NFL record books, much like his Green Bay counterpart Brett Favre. But unlike the 26-year-old Favre, 10th-year pro Everett may be crafting his final chapters.

Everett completed 17 passes in a win Dec. 3 over New England, increasing his career total to 2,458, 16th in league history.

This season Everett ranks eighth in the NFC with a quarterback rating of 86.9. His 21 touchdown passes are fifth in the conference and his 60.6 completion mark is seventh in the NFC. His numbers were buoyed by a show of offensive firepower vs. the Pats. The Saints piled up 432 yards, their best of the season and only 400-yard effort since Week 3.

Wide receiver Quinn Early is enjoying a late-season surge, with 63 catches for 866 yards going into Week 15. The

Scouting Report

Everett-Early combo doesn't guarantee success, however, as the Saints are just 3-6 when passing for more than 200 yards.

They've fared better when their ground game gets going. The Saints are 4-1 when Mario Bates rushes for 100-plus yards. Going into Week 15, Bates was on pace to become the first Saint since 1989 to rush for 1,000 yards in a season. He ranks 10th in the NFC with 844 yards rushing and seven TDs on 200 attempts.

Wesley Walls is taking advantage of the Saints' new emphasis on tight ends, with 551 yards on 45 catches through Week 14. That's about 150 yards and seven catches more than Walls had all of last season. Walls is closing in on the club record for catches by a tight end.

Defense: DT Wayne Martin has quietly adjusted to the Saints' new 4-3 defense, where he is the only member of the front seven to start every game. Through 13 games, Martin has 65 total tackles and a team-high 10 sacks for 66 yards lost, which ranks fifth in the NFC. The Saints rank ninth in the NFL with 37

sacks through Week 14.

Safety Shane Pahukoa has stepped up in recent weeks, coming up with 12 tackles and his first two career interceptions in the win over New England. He accomplished all that in three quarters after coming in for Vince Buck, who broke his fibula.

Pahukoa's two picks marked the second double-interception performance in a row for a Saints' defender. Cornerback Jimmy Spencer accomplished the feat against Carolina in Week 13.

The emergence of Pahukoa is a bright spot for the Saints in an otherwise dismal secondary scenario. Besides Buck's season-ending injury, safety Anthony Newman was inactive in Week 14 with a sprained ankle. His prognosis for this weekend's game is uncertain. The Saints rank 10th in the NFC against the pass. Cornerback Eric Allen is also recovering from a sprained ankle.

The Saints have won only three of seven games when opponents pass for 200-plus yards. That's bad news for any team facing the Packers' passing attack.

Special teams: Tyrone Hughes ranks fourth in the NFC with a 24.1-yard average on 56 kickoff returns, including a long of 74. His 83-yard kickoff return vs. Carolina Nov. 26 stands as the longest in the NFC through Week 14, while his 74-yard punt return at San Francisco Oct. 29 is tied for the longest.

Klaus Wilmsmeyer is third in the NFC with a net punting average of 36.6.

Laura Veras Marran covers the Packers for the Kenosha News.

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WHEN THE PACKERS HAVE THE BALL

WHEN THE SAINTS HAVE THE BALL

RCB 21 Allen 43 Legette	FS 26 Buck 30 Newman 44 McCleskey	SS 46 Lumpkin 35 Pahukoa	LCB 37 Spencer 33 Hughes 45 Byrd	RCB 33 Evans 45 Crawford 28 Mullen	FS 31 Teague 39 Prior	SS 36 Butler 39 Prior	LCB 21 Newsome 22 McGill 23 Dorsett
WLB 52 Harvey 55 Fields 51 Childs	MLB 58 Jones 54 Tubbs	SLB 59 Porter 56 Dixon		RLB 53 Koonce 57 Kelly 51 Williams	MLB 57 Kelly 54 Harris 55 Strickland	LLB 59 Simmons 54 Harris	
RE 97 Turnbull 90 Stanley	UT 93 Martin 79 Epps	NT 99 Broughton 91 Goff	LE 94 Johnson 99 Broughton 96 Jeffries	RE 96 Jones 98 Wilkins 91 Clavelle	NT 64 Jurkovic 94 Kuberski	LT 93 Gi. Brown 90 Holland	LE 92 White 97 LaBounty
WR 82 Ingram 81 Morgan 85 Mickens	LT 75 Ruetters 71 Brown	LG 73 Taylor 63 Timmerman	C 52 Winters 50 Arthur	RG 76 Galbreath 63 Timmerman 65 Knapp	RT 72 Dotson 71 Brown 65 Knapp	TE 89 Chmura 88 Jackson 83 Thomason	
RB 34 Bennett 32 Jervey	QB 4 Favre 9 McMahon 12 Rubley 18 Pederson	FB 25 Levens 30 Henderson 29 Wilson	WR 87 Brooks 86 Freeman 80 Jordan	HB 24 Bates 20 Brown	QB 17 Everett 14 Hodson 13 Nussmeier	FB 22 Neal 34 Zellars 36 Ned	WR 81 Haynes 83 Small

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Rules and Registration

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Sept. 17	vs.	New York Giants
Oct. 15	vs.	Detroit Lions
Nov. 26	vs.	Tampa Bay Buccaneers
Dec. 3	vs.	Cincinnati Bengals
Dec. 24	vs.	Pittsburgh Steelers





Packers roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
4	Brett Favre	QB	6-2	225	25	5	Southern Miss.
9	Jim McMahon	QB	6-1	195	36	14	Brigham Young
12	T.J. Rubley	QB	6-4	212	26	4	Tulsa
13	Chris Jacke	K	6-0	205	29	7	Texas-El Paso
17	Craig Hentrich	P	6-3	200	24	2	Notre Dame
18	Doug Pederson	QB	6-3	212	27	3	Northeast La.
21	Craig Newsome	CB	6-0	188	24	R	Arizona State
22	Lenny McGill	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Arizona State
23	Matthew Dorsett	CB	5-11	187	22	R	Southern
25	Dorsey Levens	FB	6-1	240	25	2	Georgia Tech
28	Roderick Mullen	DB	6-1	204	22	R	Grambling
29	Marcus Wilson	RB	6-1	215	27	4	Virginia
30	William Henderson	FB	6-2	248	24	R	North Carolina
31	George Teague	S	6-1	195	24	3	Alabama
32	Travis Jervey	RB	6-0	225	23	R	The Citadel
33	Doug Evans	CB	6-1	190	25	3	Louisiana Tech
34	Edgar Bennett	RB	6-0	217	26	4	Florida State
36	LeRoy Butler	S	6-0	200	27	6	Florida State
39	Mike Prior	S	6-0	208	31	10	Illinois State
45	Keith Crawford	CB	6-2	198	24	2	Howard Payne
50	Mike Arthur	C	6-3	280	27	5	Texas A & M
51	Brian Williams	LB	6-2	240	22	R	Southern Cal.
52	Frank Winters	C	6-3	295	31	9	Western Illinois
53	George Koonce	LB	6-1	243	26	4	East Carolina
54	Bernardo Harris	LB	6-2	243	23	1	North Carolina
55	Fred Strickland	LB	6-2	250	29	8	Purdue
57	Joe Kelly	LB	6-2	235	30	10	Washington
59	Wayne Simmons	LB	6-3	248	25	3	Clemson
63	Adam Timmerman	G	6-4	288	24	R	So. Dakota St.
64	John Jurkovic	NT	6-2	295	28	4	Eastern Illinois
65	Lindsay Knapp	G/T	6-6	290	25	3	Notre Dame
68	Joe Sims	T	6-3	310	26	5	Nebraska
71	Gary Brown	T	6-4	315	24	2	Georgia Tech
72	Earl Dotson	T	6-4	310	24	3	Texas A & I
73	Aaron Taylor	G	6-4	305	22	2	Notre Dame
75	Ken Ruettgers	T	6-6	292	33	11	Southern Cal.
76	Harry Galbreath	G	6-1	295	30	8	Tennessee
80	Charles Jordan	WR	5-10	183	25	3	Long Beach
81	Anthony Morgan	WR	6-1	200	27	5	Tennessee
82	Mark Ingram	WR	5-11	194	30	9	Michigan State
83	Jeff Thomason	TE	6-5	250	25	3	Oregon
85	Terry Mickens	WR	6-1	198	24	2	Florida A & M
86	Antonio Freeman	WR	6-1	187	23	R	Virginia Tech
87	Robert Brooks	WR	6-0	180	25	4	South Carolina
88	Keith Jackson	TE	6-2	258	30	8	Oklahoma
89	Mark Chmura	TE	6-5	250	26	4	Boston College
90	Darius Holland	DT	6-5	305	21	R	Colorado
91	Shannon Clavette	DE	6-3	287	21	R	Colorado
92	Reggie White	DE	6-5	300	33	11	Tennessee
93	Gilbert Brown	NT	6-2	325	24	3	Kansas
94	Bob Kuberski	NT	6-5	300	24	1	Navy
96	Sean Jones	DE	6-7	283	32	12	Northeastern
97	Matt LaBounty	DE	6-4	278	26	3	Oregon
98	Gabe Wilkins	DT	6-5	310	24	2	Gardner-Webb

PRACTICE SQUAD

10	Mike McCoy	QB	6-2	204	23	R	University of Utah
20	Charlie Simmons	WR	6-3	210	22	R	Georgia-Tech
46	Reggie Holt	S	5-11	198	24	1	Wisconsin
56	Robert Bass	LB	6-1	239	25	2	Miami (Fla.)
58	Ronnie Woolfork	LB	6-3	254	24	1	Colorado

INJURED RESERVE (OUT FOR SEASON)

11	Ty Detmer	QB	6-0	194	27	4	Brigham Young
38	Brian Satterfield	FB	6-0	225	25	1	N. Alabama
48	Mike Bartrum	TE	6-5	243	25	2	Marshall
67	Paul Hutchins	T	6-5	330	25	3	Western Mich.
70	Jeff Miller	T	6-4	295	22	R	Mississippi



Saints roster

No.	Name	Pos.	Hgt.	Wgt.	Exp.	College
4	Klaus Wilmsmeyer	P	6-1	210	4	Louisville
10	Doug Brien	PK	6-0	180	2	California
13	Doug Nussmeier	QB	6-3	211	2	Idaho
14	Tom Hodson	QB	6-3	195	4	LSU
17	Jim Everett	QB	6-5	212	10	Purdue
20	Derek Brown	RB	5-9	197	3	Nebraska
21	Eric Allen	CB	5-10	180	8	Arizona State
22	Lorenzo Neal	FB	5-11	240	3	Fresno State
24	Mario Bates	RB	6-1	217	2	Arizona State
26	Vince Buck	S	6-0	198	6	Central State (Ohio)
30	Anthony Newman	S	6-0	199	8	Oregon
33	Tyrone Hughes	CB	5-9	176	3	Nebraska
34	Ray Zellars	FB	5-11	221	R	Notre Dame
35	Shane Pahukoa	S	6-2	202	2	Washington
36	Derrick Ned	FB	6-1	220	3	Grambling State
37	Jimmy Spencer	CB	5-9	180	4	Florida
43	Tyrone Legette	CB	5-9	177	4	Nebraska
44	J.J. McCleskey	S	5-7	177	2	Tennessee
45	Israel Byrd	CB	5-11	184	1	Utah State
46	Sean Lumpkin	S	6-0	206	4	Minnesota
51	Ron Childs	LB	5-11	212	R	Washington State
52	Richard Harvey	LB	6-1	242	6	Tulane
54	Winfred Tubbs	LB	6-4	250	2	Texas
55	Mark Fields	LB	6-2	244	R	Washington State
56	Ernest Dixon	LB	6-1	240	2	South Carolina
58	Brian Jones	LB	6-1	250	2	Texas
59	Rufus Porter	LB	6-1	230	8	Southern
60	Craig Novitsky	T	6-5	295	2	UCLA
61	Ed King	G	6-4	300	4	Auburn
62	Jeff Uhlenhake	C	6-3	284	7	Ohio State
66	Mike Verstegen	G	6-6	311	R	Wisconsin
67	Andy McCollum	C/G	6-4	270	2	Toledo
68	Alan Kline	T	6-5	277	1	Ohio State
70	Chris Port	G/T	6-5	295	5	Duke
71	Richard Cooper	T	6-5	290	6	Tennessee
72	Jim Dombrowski	G	6-5	300	10	Virginia
77	William Roaf	T	6-5	300	3	Louisiana Tech
79	Tory Epps	DT	6-1	280	6	Memphis
81	Michael Haynes	WR	6-0	184	8	Northern Arizona
82	Irv Smith	TE	6-3	246	3	Notre Dame
83	Torrance Small	WR	6-3	201	4	Alcorn State
84	Steve Rhem	WR	6-2	212	2	Minnesota
85	Wesley Walls	TE	6-5	250	7	Mississippi
86	Kirk Botkin	TE	6-3	245	1	Arkansas
87	Lee DeRamus	WR	6-0	191	R	Wisconsin
89	Quinn Early	WR	6-0	190	8	Iowa
90	Israel Stanley	DE	6-3	260	1	Arizona State
91	Robert Goff	DE/NT	6-3	280	8	Auburn
93	Wayne Martin	DT	6-5	275	7	Arkansas
94	Joe Johnson	DE	6-4	270	2	Louisville
96	Dameian Jeffries	DE	6-4	277	R	Alabama
97	Renaldo Turnbull	DE	6-4	250	6	West Virginia
99	Willie Broughton	DT	6-5	285	8	Miami

PRACTICE SQUAD

29	Anthony Shelman	RB	6-3	214	R	Louisville
41	William Strong	CB	5-10	191	R	North Carolina St.
48	Rickey Brady	TE	6-4	246	1	Oklahoma
95	Earnest Jones	DE	6-2	255	1	Oregon
98	Dunston Anderson	DE	6-4	270	1	Tulsa

INJURED RESERVE

28	Ralph Dawkins	RB	5-8	195	1	Louisville
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RESERVE/NON-FOOTBALL INJURY

3	Timm Rosenbach	QB	6-1	215	5	Washington State
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Taylor tough on Giants

Running back hammers away as Pack wins '62 title

By Brett Christopherson

"Jim Taylor isn't human. No human could have withstood the punishment he got today. Every time he was tackled, it was like crashing him down on a cement sidewalk. But he kept bouncing up, snarling at us and asking for more."

New York Giant linebacker Sam Huff after the 1962 NFL title game

In one of the most legendary championship games in National Football League history, former Packer fullback Jim Taylor's memorable individual performance was equally as legendary.

With the mercury shivering below the freezing mark and a destructive wind chill of at least minus-20 degrees, the conditions for the 1962 championship game between the Green Bay Packers and the New York Giants were horrible at best.

While the elements weren't in Green Bay's favor for a second consecutive title, the Giants were just as fierce as the bitter cold which encompassed every inch of

Yankee Stadium.

In a brutal battle that will forever be remembered, Green Bay prevailed, 16-7, capping off a year which saw them fall only once en route to becoming one of the greatest teams in pro football history.

However, the greater battle occurred between Taylor and Giant linebacker Sam Huff in what ended up being one of the greatest personal duels football has ever seen.

Never before had a player took as much pounding as Taylor endured from Huff and the rest of the Giant defense. Throughout the course of the game, the 6-foot, 212-pound runner from Louisiana suffered a severely cut elbow which required seven stitches to close, and played most of the game with a mouthful of blood thanks to a badly cut tongue. Worse yet, after the title game, Taylor even had trouble seeing and talking.

Despite all the setbacks, Taylor still ran for 85 yards on a then playoff high 31 carries while scoring Green Bay's only touchdown, forever cementing himself in the minds of fans as one of the toughest men to ever wear a pro football uniform.

"It was a tough, hard-fought game,"



Taylor



Photo by Vernon and John Biever

Jim Taylor, who rushed 31 times for 85 yards in the 1962 NFL title game, dives toward the goal line while Bart Starr watches during Super Bowl I.

Taylor said recently. "The field was frozen, and out of the 31 carries I had, I bounced out of bounds about 20 times because you couldn't cut. It was brutal."

As for the encounter with Huff, Taylor remembers getting the best of the linebacker following his 10-yard burst to put Green Bay up 16-7 and the game, essentially, out of reach.

"I remember he kept saying, 'You stink Taylor, you stink,'" he said with a laugh. "After I scored the touchdown, I yelled back, 'How do I smell from here?'"

No question about it, Taylor was as tough as nails, and the 1962 title game and season proved to be the benchmark on an incredible Hall of Fame career Taylor enjoyed. When all was said and done, the five-time Pro Bowler, who was a second-round draft pick out of LSU in 1958, still ranks as the number one Packer rusher with 8,207 career yards and his 546 total points put him fourth in team scoring.

While Taylor himself will admit to not having the greatest talent a running back ever possessed, it was his hard work and determination which set him apart from the rest.

"I always thought I had just average talent," he said. "But I had a lot of desire and the work habits to carry myself into a higher level."

During his nine seasons in the Green and Gold (1958-66), Taylor certainly played at a level higher than many of his peers. When teamed with running mate Paul Hornung, Taylor often provided the thunder of Green Bay's offensive storm, grinding out yardage and running over any defender who dared get in his way, while Hornung's lightning quick scoring ability led to one of the greatest backfield tandems in football.

"I enjoyed making every possible inch when running with the football," Taylor said about his bruising style of play. "When I got into the situation where I was pinched against the sideline, I had choices. I could run out of bounds or take on the defender for more yards."

"If I was going to get hit, then let me initiate it," he added. "You're going to

have contact. If you know there will be pain and suffering, then it's the survival of the fittest. It's all relevant in being the best player you can be."

But without the guidance and "encouragement" from coach Lombardi, Taylor may have never had the chance to become one of the game's all-time best.

"He was a great coach who knew how to motivate and demanded a lot," said Taylor, who lives in Baton Rouge and has enjoyed a prosperous income property business. "He challenged you and I liked to accept challenges."

It was those challenges which lifted Taylor and the Packers from despair to champions in just a matter of a few short years.

"I just feel fortunate to have come along in the era of Lombardi in Green Bay," said Taylor, who rushed for a career-high 1,474 yards and 19 touchdowns in 1962. "Just being part of that legendary era of wonderful football, good people, and good leadership, as well as winning the championships, was a delight."

However, all good things must come to an end, and in 1967, Taylor's relationship with the Packers ended when he signed a contract with the expansion New Orleans Saints, a move which put him closer to home, and a move he doesn't regret.

"I felt it was time to make a choice in my life and I'd probably do it again," said Taylor. "The contract negotiations with the Packers didn't work out so I played a tenth season with the Saints and retired."

After nearly 30 years since he last ran to daylight, punishing anyone in his way, the legend of Taylor and his toughness are as strong as ever in Titledown — a place which holds a special spot in his heart.

"I just enjoyed being there," he said. "It's small and you can't compare the closeness and the camaraderie of the players. It's really a great place."

Brett Christopherson is a freelance writer from Menasha.

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Many cards on horizon

The '95 NFL season is in full swing and already more than 20 new football card sets have been issued, not including the insert and parallel sets. That's an awful lot of gridiron condensed to a 2x3-inch piece of cardboard.

Here's a look at what is on the horizon with the football card hobby for the upcoming months:

Pacific Prism 2 will offer 108 players that were not involved in Series 1. Each card sports a double-panel silver prism foil etched image as well as a gold parallel version of each card. Three insert sets are available: Kings of the NFL, Royal Connection Quarterbacks and Royal Connection Receivers. In addition, 50 John Elway autographed cards have been randomly inserted at the rate of 1 in every 43,200 packs.

Kings of the NFL is a foil stamped 10-card set that features ten different NFL categories and found at the rate of 1-361 packs. The Royal Connection insert sets are each stamped in blue foil and found 1-73 packs with the 10-card quarterback version found in retail while the 10-card receivers rendition inserted into hobby packs. Each rendition has a logo that becomes whole when the two cards are placed side-by-side.

Topps Stadium Club Series 2 contain 225 cards, 181 base, 29 expansion team theme cards and 15 draft pick theme cards. Four insert sets are involved: MVP's, Ground Attack, Power Surge, and Nightmares 2.

MVP's are laser-cut in an 8-card array highlighted with gold foil on chromium stock. Power Surge is a 12-card set that features a lightning bolt that rainbows when the card is tilted. Former Packer Vince Workman appears on card #8.

Ground Attack resembles the Nemesis insert set in Series one and features either a QB or RB on each side in etched foil with Edgar Bennett/Brett Favre on card #2. Nightmares is a 15-card hobby

Barry Shuck



Collectors' Corner

only version featuring commentary from comic "bad girl" Vampirella with an etched foil design. Favre is card #28.

McDonald's restaurants in the St. Louis area are offering a special 25-card set produced by Upper Deck honoring the arrival of the Rams to the city. The set is available in five-card packs for \$.79 with the purchase of any value meal.

Highland Mint will have available three new mint-cards in two varieties depicting Emmitt Smith, Drew Bledsoe or Heath Shuler. Each contains 4.25 ounces of either silver or bronze and are individually numbered. The bronze edition is limited to 5,000 minted and carries a \$50 suggested retail price while the silver variation is priced at \$235 with only 1,000 minted.

Classic ProLine unveils its first-ever Series 2 with a prepaid NFL phone card inserted into every pack and 75 cards comprising the base set. A parallel set called **Printer's Proofs** is available for



The ProLine set, featuring Marshall Faulk, has one phone card in every pack. Right, Brett Favre's card, from the Monday Night Football set.



each card in the base set. Phone cards available are: 30 - one minute; 25 - \$2; 15 - \$5; 5 - \$20; 5 - \$100; 4 - \$1,000; and one \$1,500. Emmitt Smith card. Five insert sets can be found: Precision Cut, NFL Images Previews, Field Generals, Oversized Bonus Cards and Printer's Proofs Phone Cards.

Precision Cut is a 20 die-cut card set printed on silver foil board found in hobby boxes only. **Images Preview** is a 5-card set that is micro-lined depicting the new design for the upcoming '95 Images set. **Field Generals** are 10 acetate cards. **Oversized Bonus** feature are oversized with only three players found at the rate of one card per case. **Printer's Proofs Phone** are available of the one, two and five dollar phone cards printed with a special logo. Reggie White appears on the one minute and \$5 phone cards.

Pinnacle Action Packed Monday Night Football is a 126-card set that includes two subsets intermixed into the base set - The Night is Young, a 20-card offering and a 10-card Monday Night Classics. A parallel version entitled Highlights feature a-prismatic foil background and is available for each card.

Three insert sets are inserted randomly: Night Flights - a 12-card set of members of the QB Club with textured gold foil, 24kt - 12 of the regular cards have been earmarked stamped with genuine gold leafing, and the hobby only Reverse Angle - this 18-card set is found 1-24 packs with less than 1,500 sets available.

Barry Shuck's column on collectibles appears bi-weekly in the Packer Report. Readers are invited to submit questions or comments on card collecting to Shuck at P.O. Box 646, Bagdad, Fla. 32530

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letters to the editor

True role model

I had the pleasure of visiting Fuzzy Thurston's club in Green Bay the day before the Tampa Bay game (Nov. 26). If you want to see an example of a true role model, meet Fuzzy.

This man took time to sign autographs for his fans. I'll never forget a father bringing his two young boys to meet Fuzz. The smiles on their faces. He was most friendly and even had a picture taken. There are a lot of good athletes who are good role models today, but in my book none better than Fuzzy Thurston.

Only in Green Bay can you find rich tradition, friendship and understanding like we have. Fuzz lends to all of these. Shenanigans in Green Bay will always be a place to find a friendly face loaded with true Packer tradition.

Thanks Fuzz for being a true role model.

Bill Zawadski
Algonquin, Ill.

Really pumped up

I'm getting excited gang. I mean really pumped! I may live in Nashville now, but my Packer Report keeps me focused. I'm ready for the playoffs.

The team is really coming of age. Favre is big news, even down here, and the total commitment of Reggie White to his team, his fellow man and to God is becoming a genuine inspiration to fans everywhere. All the players are stepping it up both on offense and defense. I can just feel it! It infiltrates my living room whenever they replay highlights on national TV. If that weren't enough, ol' Jim McMahon has a "G" on his helmet now.

This time around, I think we're ready for Dallas. "Hey, Troy, Emmitt and Deion, lets get together again real soon!"

Ready for Super Bowl
Tom Grant
Nashville, Tenn.

Why LeShon?

This letter pertains to the releasing of LeShon Johnson.

I can't believe that Ron Wolf would release a young player with an incredible amount of potential for an older player

who will only be around for the remainder of the season. Maybe some will argue that LeShon has not produced, but I believe that he never got a shot to show his abilities. I realize that he was hurt, but when he came back he only got two carries.

Don't get me wrong. I love Edgar Bennett and think he is a great back, but could you imagine what the running game could be with LeShon's speed and Edgar's all-around game in the same backfield? What a great one-two punch. Hopefully, LeShon can be picked up in the off-season and given another chance.

Packer die-hard
Tom Graese
Glenwood City, Wis.

Editor's note: True, Johnson has the capability to make a big play with his speed, but he was simply expendable because of a loaded backfield and the fact that he does not play on special teams. Fullback Dorsey Levens is very capable of playing tailback should Bennett get injured. Plus, the Packers have a talented rookie running back in Travis Jervy and fullback William Henderson who have been key players on special teams.

A real experience

Dear Packer Report,

I saw my first Packer game on my grandfather's black and white TV in 1966 when I was 4 years old and I immediately fell in love with their helmets and that trademark "G." I've been a HUGE die-hard Packer fan ever since.

Back on Nov. 12, thanks to a couple of fellow firefighters, Joe and his wife, Ginny, my cousin (another die-hard Packer fan) and I were blessed with the opportunity to see the 150th renewal of the Packers-Bears rivalry. (The Bears still ----!) Words alone cannot describe my experience that weekend. Now I know what people mean when they say you have to go to Lambeau Field to truly appreciate not only professional football, but football in general. I am convinced that there is no better place to watch a game.

Joe bought the tickets through Fuzzy Thurston's Shenanigan's Bar. What a great package. Not only did we receive tickets to the game, but the package also included two nights lodging at a hotel virtually next to Lambeau Field, plus a tailgate party at Mr. Thurston's bar before the game and then a bus ride to the game. Mr.

Thurston is a real class act and a true gentleman.

The atmosphere at Lambeau was unlike anything I've ever experienced. Plus, the game itself was an all-timer. I wish I had more space to discuss the game, but suffice it to say our seats were in the first row in the end zone and the Bears' Erik Kramer threw incomplete on third and fourth downs in our end zone. WOW! Plus, we got about this close to catching Robert Brooks after his second TD of the game.

I haven't stopped talking about that weekend. I've almost convinced my brother-in-law to become a Packer fan. He used to be a Browns fan. We saw Green Bay play in Cleveland and he couldn't believe the enormous number of Packer fans there.

Green Bay will become an annual road trip, even when/if I get married. The helmet with the "G" - I bought one.

Go Pack, go!
Brian S. Lieberman
Toledo, Ohio

No need for Sharpe

Dear Packer Report,

In a recent issue (Dec. 2), "Packer Vince" wrote in and questioned "wouldn't the Packers be a better team with both Robert Brooks and Sterling Sharpe?" The answer is a resounding NO, NO, NO!

There is no "I" in the word team and that's all Sterling is worried about.

Requirements

Letters to the Packer Report are welcome, but must be limited to 350 words. They must be signed with a name, address and phone number. The Packer Report reserves the right to reject or edit letters. Writers are limited to one letter each 30 days. Typed letters can be faxed to (414) 497-6519, or send letters by conventional mail to:

Packer Report
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Actions speak louder than words. Renegotiate his contract and hold out the night before the 1994 season opener against the Vikings? His actions were wrong and a slap in his teammates' and fans' faces.

True, Packer fans are sentimental; we want the Packers to win but we want them to do it with class, dignity and sportsmanship ... like all the great Packer teams before them.

Sterling might still be other fans' favorite player, but his disappointing decision, plus his horrible behavior during a paid autograph session broke my family's heart for him.

At least Brooks likes the fans.

Grant Dahlke
Schaumburg, Ill.



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letters to the editor

Playing as a team

Dear Sirs,

What an exciting season it has been as the Packers have battled to the top. The most gratifying aspect of the team's play has been the Pack's ability to raise the intensity level and to prove that the prognosticators really do know next to nothing about football.

As I recall, this year's draft rated a "C." With Sterling Sharpe and Jackie Harris gone, the offense will be helpless.

With Bryce Paup gone the defense will be a sieve. Mark Ingram will be a poor substitute for Sharpe. Edgar Bennett's move to tailback is a desperate "experiment" and the Packers will finish last.

I suppose by ignoring the fact that Brett Favre is the NFL's best young quarterback and that Robert Brooks and Mark Chmura are budding stars, one could reach those conclusions. Bennett is now able to display his outstanding skills. He's one of the NFL's most versatile backs. Ingram is a tough veteran and a fine addition.

The offensive line is exceptional and will only improve as Aaron Taylor and Earl Dotson gain experience. The defense is a tough, aggressive unit made even better with the addition of Craig Newsome and Darius Holland.

Newsome and Holland alone make this year's draft exceptional. The skills of Antonio Freeman and William Henderson make it the best draft in recent history.

In closing, I certainly enjoyed seeing Harris slumped on the sideline as the Packers hammered the Bucs. Seeing Paup leave the field after spending the evening being ground into the turf by the Patriots on Monday Night Football.

Football is the ultimate team game. If these guys don't want to be part of such an outstanding young team, that's fine. As the Pack has so skillfully shown us, nobody is irreplaceable.

Mike Briggs
Ann Arbor, Mich.

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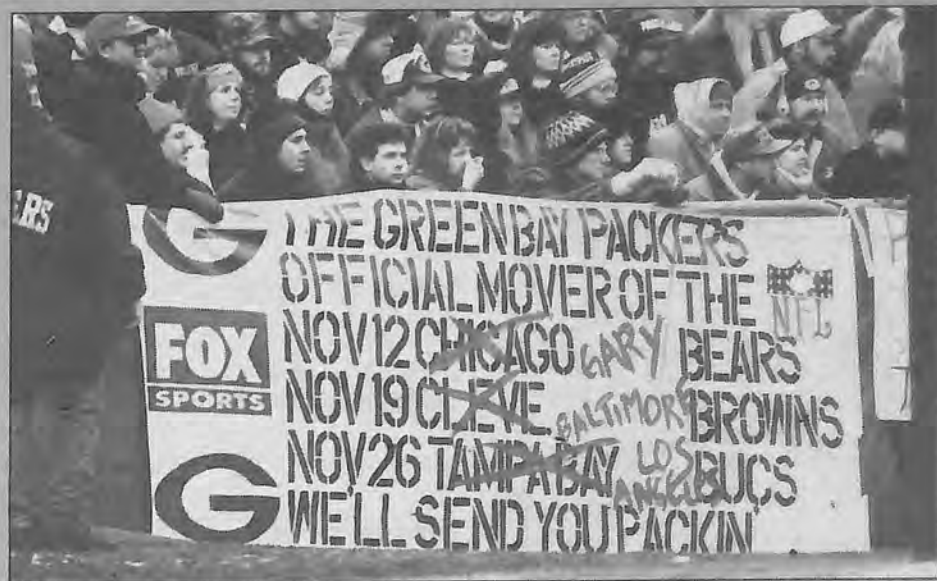


Photo by Mark A. Wallenjung

One more time

Due to a technical error, the above photo of Packer fans predicting where Green Bay's former opponents will move next year was 'inadvertently scrambled' in the Dec. 9 issue. Sorry for the inconvenience.

Packer Report

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HAP95



Les Rhoades stands near his Packer mailbox in Black River Falls, Wis.

Dad's day picture perfect

All you have to do is drive by the house and take a look at the homemade Packer mailbox, or the Packer signs in the window to know my dad, Les Rhoades, is a serious Packer fan.

He has a large Packer collection in his home. Last Christmas, my mom even made him a Packer Christmas tree. It included Packer helmets and other items from his collection.

My dad has been to Lambeau Field for

Packer games, but I've never seen him as excited as he was when we went there this past September.

We went to Green Bay to find something to add to his collection. When we got there we were able to take a stadium tour. While the

guide was talking to us in Lambeau's parking lot, many of the Packers were coming in for lunch. So my dad was able to take many of their pictures. He was very excited!

But that wasn't the end. After the tour, we went back to the Packer Pro Shop. While we were shopping I heard someone yell, "Brett Favre!" I turned to see my dad running across the parking lot to get Brett's picture. I couldn't believe this was my dad!

He did get Brett's picture. Was he happy? Yes! But all the way home all he did was complain that there was no one there to take his picture with Brett.

Also a Packer fan,
Mary Axelsen
Sparta, Wis.

To be considered for Super Fan, include a non-returnable photo and send to: Packer Report, "Super Fan," P.O. Box 10662, Green Bay, WI 54307.

FAN CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	TIME	TICKET PRICE
Dec. 15	Packer Fans Get-together, Caddyshack, 920 Poydras	4 PM to ?????	
Dec. 16	Green Bay Packers at New Orleans Tailgate at Superdome by gate C	1 PM to 2:30PM	\$22 per person
Dec. 23	Packer Eve Party at "The Bar" in Green Bay. Kidd Gloves to play	9 PM band starts	\$5 includes 1 beverage ticket
Dec. 24	Pittsburgh Steelers at Green Bay Tailgate	10 AM to 11:30AM	Members Free / \$10 general public
Feb. 4	PRO BOWL TRIP	Diff. departure times	Call (800) 861-5585

Home game tailgate tickets can be purchased at the gate the day of the game, away tailgate tickets can be purchased thru America's Pack at (414) 497-6500 ask for Debbie. For more information on any event call us at America's Pack. America's Pack would like to thank our members for your continued support to America's Pack and the Green Bay Packers, THANK YOU!



Reggie White

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Image Size
17" x 25"
Overall Size
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This print is officially licensed by the National Football League, the NFL Player Association and the NFL Quarterback Club.

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Crowd pleasers

Players leaping into stands to celebrate with Packer fans

High-fives just don't cut it anymore.

Instead of slapping hands with fans after a touchdown or interception, Robert Brooks, LeRoy Butler, Mark Ingram and a few other Packer players have taken it a step, or leap, further with Packer fans seated around the end zone at Lambeau Field.

The Packer players are now jumping into the stands to celebrate a big play. Both the fans and players seem to love it and many fans are encouraging players to jump into their "front row."

"I see a lot of signs," said Brooks. "One was, 'Brooks, you're cleared for a landing.' That's real cool, man. It encourages me to want to jump up there."

Only for those Packers who can clear the high wall, though.

"I can't jump that high," said Brett Favre. "Those guys really get up. I didn't want to embarrass myself and jump up and slide down, getting laughed at by the crowd."

There are certain risks players take once in the hands of the fans.

"They spill a lot of beer on me," said Brooks.



Photo by Rick Koziatsek

Packer fans mob Robert Brooks, center, and Mark Ingram after Brooks scored a touchdown Nov. 26.



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